Cebuanos outraged by Abu Sayyaf trial

STORY ON PAGE A2

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Reese Witherspoon scores a direct hit in 'Legally Blonde'
- Rustom Padilla bounces back
- Barbie's Cradle remains grounded

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001 ★ 60 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 230 ₱15

Wife's place not in the sala, SC tells judge

BY C.C. YAMSUAN

ANG KAPAL NAMAN!!!

THIS wife's place is not in the sala, according to the highest court in the land.

The Supreme Court has ordered a Tacloban City judge to minimize

WIFE'S/ A16

Gloria: I know who's involved

Pimentel: Opposition eyeing Rodrigo as witness against Mike

"I HAVE done my own investigation and will submit my findings to the Ombudsman," declares President Macapagal during her press conference on Friday. JOAN BONDOC

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday that she would give the Ombudsman documents and an affidavit disclosing the findings of her own internal investigation into allegations that her husband, Mike Arroyo, took a multi-million bribe to help two telecommunications companies seek the recall of vetoed franchises.

The Ombudsman is under orders to determine "who really accepted a bribe" in the controversy that started when Arroyo and former Palace secretary Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo accused each other of accepting money to assist one of the telecom companies, which are believed to be linked to Estrada crony Jaime Dichaves.

"These are serious accusations," Ms Macapagal said in her weekly news conference, after directing her legal counsel Avelino Cruz to coordinate with the Ombudsman so that an official investigation can start.

She said that she did not recall vetoing the franchises, earlier granted by Congress to Philippine Communication Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc., which are both owned by Pacifico Marcelo, an Estrada appointee to the board of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

"Nonetheless, we must be like

GLORIA/ A4

Give me alternatives, Gloria tells critics

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

"WHAT is your alternative program for the country?"

President Macapagal-Arroyo posed the question to the opposition, which she assailed for criticizing the goals she had set in her State of the Nation Address without providing alternatives.

"The people are so fed up with all these politicking and regard for personal interest of politicians," she said in Filipino during her weekly press conference.

She reiterated her call for a one-year moratorium on political bickering to enable her administration to fulfill her commitment to provide jobs, education, housing and food for millions of Filipinos.

"This is the golden opportunity for us leaders in power and in the opposition to be united because of a great need. We should unite and help each other because of the crisis affecting our nation. Our people, especially the poor, are banking on us to give them a better life and a new dawn," she said.

The President said it was the duty of the opposition to provide an alternative platform of government so that the people could decide which option was better for their welfare.

But instead of providing an option, she said the opposition merely lambasted her programs and proclaimed that these could not be attained because the government lacked the money to finance them.

"It is not enough to criticize for it is very

GIVE/ A16

Break 'weather-weather' cycle, GMA urged

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

ONE OF the lead public prosecutors in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada is having serious doubts about the Macapagal administration's commitment to fight corruption.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno yesterday issued a "Call for Reflection (and Resignation)" in response to "reports of indiscretion (and in some cases outright corruption) on the part of certain members of the Cabinet and other appointees to senior government positions, including those of government-owned or controlled corporations."

"While these reports concern only a few of the officials appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, they are, nonetheless, still very disturbing," Moreno said in a statement.

Moreno did not name the officials suspected of "indiscretion" or "outright corruption."

He said officials "should be reminded that our being in the frontline now is not merely a result of a simple change in administration."

"(The change came about) not as a regular part of vicious 'weather-weather' power-transfer cycle, Philippine style, in which the new administration anxiously takes its turn in enjoying the spoils of newly acquired power," he said.

Moreno said the "weather-weather" cycle should be broken.

"We did not go through the painful process and risked our lives to grab power and enjoy its perks," he said.

Moreno was the public prosecutor who conducted the direct examination on PCI Equitable Bank executive Clarissa Ocampo, the witness who linked Estrada to a multibillion-peso secret account.

He called on erring officials to resign and "spare the Macapagal administration from deadweights that will certainly impede its duty of bringing a better life for our people."

MAD, 6 other party-list winners face ax

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

SEVEN of the top 10 party-list candidates in the May elections are in danger of disqualification based on the Commission on Elections' study on the criteria for inclusion as sectoral representatives in Congress.

A partial compliance report filed yesterday by the Comelec before the Supreme Court indicated that seven party-list candidates did not qualify under the guidelines proposed by the tribunal.

These are Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), which garnered 9.9 percent of the votes cast; Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec), 5.3 percent; Veterans Federation Party, 3.8 percent; Abag Promdi, 2.8 percent; Nationalist People's Coalition, 2.5 percent; Lakas-NUCD, 2.1 percent; and Citizen's Battle Against Corruption, 2.1 percent.

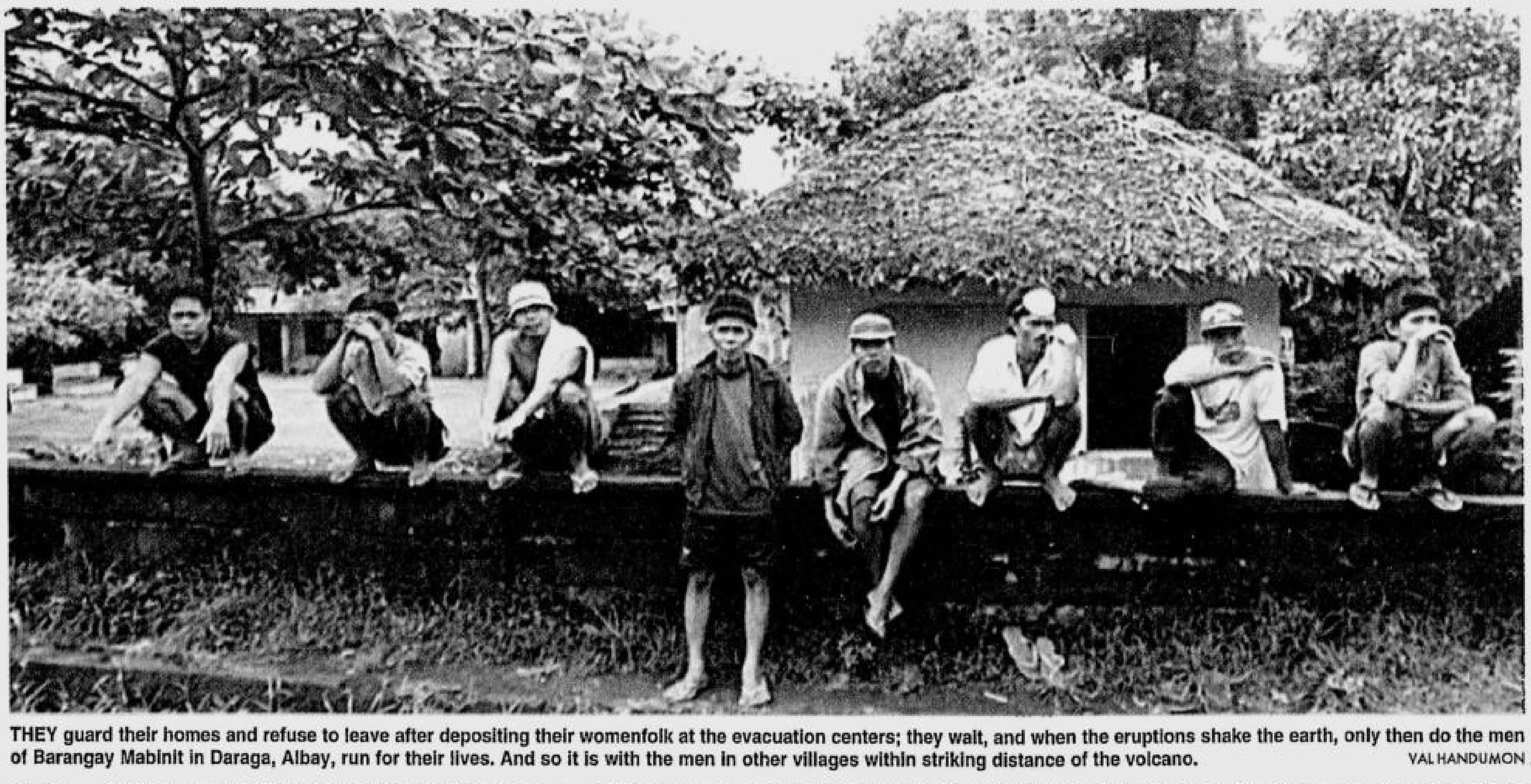
The high court earlier blocked the Comelec from proclaiming the winners in the party-list election until it had conducted summary evidentiary hearings to determine which among the 154 candidates actually qualified for sectoral slots in the House of Representatives.

According to the tribunal, only party-list candidates that truly represent the marginalized sectors have nominees who really come from these sectors, and are not representing religious groups should qualify.

On June 26, the high court gave the Comelec 30 days to conduct its hearings. It said that until then, the poll body could not proclaim the party-list winners.

In its partial compliance report, the

MAD/ A16



THEY guard their homes and refuse to leave after depositing their womenfolk at the evacuation centers; they wait, and when the eruptions shake the earth, only then do the men of Barangay Mabinit in Daraga, Albay, run for their lives. And so it is with the men in other villages within striking distance of the volcano. VAL HANDUMON

Tax cuts will worsen deficit, solon warns

"THE BIGGEST tax relief ever given by the government to the average Filipino wage earner," Lakas Rep. Joey Salceda (Albay) yesterday said referring to the proposed tax cuts for individual taxpayers.

Salceda, an economist and former stockbroker, said wage earners would get a total tax relief of P28 billion, equivalent to 38 percent of the P72 billion being collected from them.

"This translates into an annual increase of P16,500, or P1,373 a month, in the average take home pay of the country's 1.7 million wage earners (who pay their taxes)," Salceda said. "This should already cover 50 percent of the demand for a P3,000 (monthly) wage increase."

But Salceda said the proposed modified gross income tax for corporate taxpayers would create a "stagnant revenue base" for the government and further aggravate the country's budget deficit.

He said the Department of Finance's projections on the gains from the proposed business

TAX/ A16

Defiant Mayon folk say: We run, we return . . .

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Residents of villages in the permanent danger zone yesterday began venturing back to their homes despite warnings that more, and possibly bigger, eruptions are expected this week from Mt. Mayon.

The population at the 33 evacuation centers had swelled overnight since Thursday to more than 43,000, according to the latest count by the Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC). But yesterday, evacuees complaining of congestion began to leave.

"Life in Matanag is like this," Restituto Belga, a 71-year-old man tending his home and his 4-year-old granddaughter in the village in the danger zone, told the Associated Press. "We run, then we return. We run, then we return."

The latest report from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Mayon had entered an effusive eruptive stage following Thursday's series of three eruptions that occurred at six-hour intervals starting at 7:56 a.m.

DEFIANT/ A16

PA'NO YAN, WALANG MAY GOSTO?

Cebuanos outraged by Abu trial

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Malou Apalisok
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"Objection, Your Honors."

With this declaration, Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia yesterday said he would file a manifestation before the Supreme Court against the high tribunal's order transferring to Cebu the trial of 34 suspected Abu Sayyaf leaders and members.

Garcia said bringing the suspected members of the terrorist group to Cebu would pose a big security threat to the province and adversely affect business and tourism.

Citing the very same concerns, Zamboanga City officials had sought the transfer of the trial venue from that Mindanao City, which the high court granted the other day.

But it appears nobody wants any high-security Abu Sayyaf trial in their midst as not just Garcia but many Cebu political, business and civic leaders are also very much opposed to holding the trial here.

Even Cebu-based militant groups like Bayan also objected to the transfer, albeit for a different reason. They believe that the high-security requirements of bringing suspected terrorists to Cebu would result in the "militarization" of the island province.

Sen. John Osmeña has gone a step further, announcing yesterday that he would call all Cebuano congressmen, mayors and other local officials to a meeting to express their objection to the Supreme Court decision through an urgent petition before the high tribunal.

"We will file an urgent petition before the Supreme Court. We will ask the court to reconsider its decision. We will vehemently object to that decision," the senator said.

Osmeña branded the decision as "unfortunate" and even criticized Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. for being "thoughtless."

Osmeña said the Chief Justice, being a Cebuano, "should not have allowed" the decision.

The Cebuano senator said moving the trial to Cebu would "hurt" tourism as the "international media will associate Cebu with kidnappings."

"You should remember that part of Cebu's success as a tourism destination is its efforts to dissociate itself from the rest of the country through the slogan 'an island in the Pacific'," the senator said.

Despite the downtrend in Philippine tourism as an offshoot of the Abu Sayyaf's kidnapping of tourists from Sipadan, Malaysia last year and from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan early this year, Cebu has remained a prime tourist destination because of its relative peace.

However, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, the senator's cousin, said he had no objection to holding the trial here as he was willing "to accept the challenge and the responsibility."

The mayor said the high court's decision should be viewed as a recognition of Cebu's capability of handling the situation.

It should be an opportunity for local officials to show that Cebu can succeed in conducting a peaceful trial, he said.

But the mayor said he would ask the authorities to upgrade police mobilization and communication facilities in Cebu because of the "high risk" involved in conducting such a trial.

Garcia, however, said Cebu should not take the risk, "especially as we are not talking here of just one Abu Sayyaf but 40 to 50 members and even leaders."

He said Cebu would not have the appropriate detention cells for the terrorist group.

Mal Michael Manquiquis, spokesperson of the Armed Forces' Visayas Command, admitted that the Viscom camp does not have sufficient facilities to hold many suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

He said Camp Lapulapu, the Viscom headquarters on Barangay Lahug, has a stockade that can hold only 10 persons at most. The stockade is used for holding erring soldiers placed on camp arrest.

Manquiquis said one possible solution would be to construct a new detention cell inside the camp for the Abu Sayyaf. The hearings could also be heard inside the camp.

Cebu Regional Trial Court executive judge Galicano Ariesgado has declined to comment, saying it would be prudent not to say anything until he receives the order from the Supreme Court.

But regional state prosecutor Hernando Masangkay said it would be too risky to hold the hearings at the Cebu Palace of Justice since the building is small and located just beside the Capitol building.

"The Palace of Justice is exposed and too close to the Capitol where a lot of people transact business . . . that would really cause a lot of problems not only for the prosecutors but for the public as well," he said.

The Cebu Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CFCCI)president, Filomeno Lim, said holding the trial in Cebu would be "bad" for the general population and especially for business.

He stressed that since the Abu Sayyaf threat was already an international issue, holding the trial of its suspected members here might cause Cebu to suffer the same fate as Mindanao which, he said, has already been blacklisted by Western tourist organizations.

Lim foresees other Abu Sayyaf members and sympathizers coming to Cebu for the trial which, he said, could scare tourists.

He said Cebu would lose its advantage as a traders' transshipment point because "the psychological effect will be tremendous" as thousands of soldiers and policemen will be mobilized to guard the trial venue.

Lim urged national leaders to look for a "suitable place where there is less effect on the population and business."

He said he intends to call on all Chinese-Filipino traders to a meeting to study moves to support the initiatives of local officials who are opposed to holding the trial here.

Moro rebs insist on pullback

PORT DICKSON, Malaysia—Moro rebels waging a separatist rebellion in Mindanao said yesterday that it was too soon to tell whether ceasefire talks with the Philippine government will succeed in a permanent settlement.

Murad Ibrahim, chief negotiator for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front at talks that resumed Friday in Malaysia, said that the government needed to withdraw troops from rebel areas in the South and allow thousands of displaced people to return.

Government negotiators were sticking to a more narrow demand that a ceasefire needed to become concrete, Ibrahim told The Associated Press after morning talks.

"It's still too early to predict" whether the talks will succeed, Ibrahim said. "The security aspect is a pre-condition to implementing the other aspects of the negotiations."

The government team agreed that security issues needed to be resolved first, but refused to comment on specifics. *AP*

3 militiamen beheaded by Abus, says mayor

By Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—The Abu Sayyaf has beheaded three of its hostages, a Basilan town mayor claimed yesterday.

Lantawan Mayor Tahira Ismael said her security personnel reported to her that militiamen Salam Salih, Uttoh Adjal and Hadji Abdul Karam had been beheaded by an Abu Sayyaf group led by brothers Omair and Basar Taib.

"The beheading took place four days ago, or last Monday," the mayor said.

The militiamen, members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), were reportedly abducted by the bandits on July 21 while they were harvesting coconuts. Ismael said local officials were looking for the bodies of the victims.

The military in Basilan, however, was still verifying the report, according to Lt. Col. Darwin Guerra, acting spokesperson of the Southern Command.

In Lamitan town, two suspected Abu Sayyaf supporters who were arrested last week were freed yesterday.

Hayzam Sangkula, 14, a sophomore high school student at Claret Lamitan and Madznar Jaiyari, 26, were freed after they were able to clear themselves of any involvement with the bandit group.

Jaiyari, however, suffered bruises and contusions.

"*Pinalo ako ng baril sa likod, sinuntok ako sa mukha, di ko naman sila makita kasi nakatakip ang aking mga mata* (They beat me with a gun in the back, they punched me in the face, I could not see them because my eyes were covered)," Jaiyari, a Cafgu member since 1997, said.

Sangkula said he was not hurt but his arresting officers blindfolded him.

As the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf entered its third month yesterday, an intelligence officer admitted the military was conducting test flights on a newly acquired spy plane.

"It's more powerful than the MG-520 and is operated without a pilot, only by remote control," the military official who asked not to be named said.

He said the plane was being tested every other night at Edwin Andrews Airbase in Zamboanga City.

"*Katulad yun ng* model *na ginamit sa* Israel. We will issue a formal *statement pag nagamit na ito sa isang* operation. *Malaking tulong ito para sa ating* operation *sa* Basilan *at* Sulu (It's similar to the model used by Israel. We will issue . . . statement when it is used in an operation. It will be a big help to our operations)," he said.

Rasul on military arrest list, says Ople

OPPOSITION Sen. Blas Ople has protested the impending arrest by the military of former ambassador to Saudi Arabia Abraham Rasul for being an alleged supporter of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

In a press briefing yesterday, Ople said he had received reports from Rasul's family that the former ambassador "was very likely the Ibrahim Rasul cited in the warrant of arrest obtained by the military from a local court."

The former ambassador is married to ex-senator Santanina Rasul.

Ople said that he had already sent a "wired protest to Malacañang" against Rasul's impending arrest.

He said Rasul was apparently tagged by hooded spies "wanting to share in the P100 million bounty" released by President Macapagal-Arroyo for information on alleged supporters and sympathizers of the Abu Sayyaf.

On the first day of the congressional session this week, Ople filed Senate Resolution No. 97, calling for an investigation into human rights violations arising from the proclamation of a "state of lawlessness in Basilan."

He also called on the Senate to investigate the alleged "zoning or hamletting" going on in Muslim Mindanao in pursuit of anti-terrorism, saying this was a gross violation of the Bill of Rights. *Armand Nocum*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

July 6, 2001

BUREAU CIRCULAR
No. 8 s. 2001

Subject: Guidelines to be Observed on the Implementation of Product Recall System

Chapter II of R.A. 3720 as amended by E.O. 175, otherwise known as the "Foods, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Act" declares it the policy of the state, "to insure safe and good quality supply of food, drug and cosmetics and to regulate the production, sale and traffic of the same to protect the health of the people".

For the proper implementation of the above policy and in accordance with Chapter II, Section 3(b) of this same Act and Section 12.1 of A.O. 43-A, s. 1999 with subject "Current Good Manufacturing Practice Guidelines for Drugs", the following guidelines to be observed on the recall of all types of regulated products from the market are hereby promulgated.

1. **General Information**

Recalls are actions taken to remove a product from the market. Recalls may be initiated by BFAD or are voluntary actions on the part of manufacturers and distributors to carry out their responsibility to protect the public health and well-being from products that present a risk of injury or gross deception or are otherwise deceptive.

Recalls are an appropriate alternative method for removing or correcting marketed products, including their labeling and/or promotional literature, that violate the laws administered by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD). They are generally more efficient and afford equal and more timely consumer protection than formal administrative or civil actions, especially when the product has been widely distributed.

2. **Scope**

These Guidelines shall apply to the recall of all types of products regulated by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

3. **BFAD Committee for Product Recall**
4. **Health Hazard Evaluation**
5. **Recall Classification**
6. **Who Will Initiate Recall**
    6.1 **Firm Initiated Recall**
    6.2 **BFAD Ordered Recall**
7. **General Procedure for Product Recall**
8. **Public Health Alert**
9. **Recall Strategy**
10. **Recall Status Report**
11. **Refusal By or Failure of Firm to Conduct Effective Product Recall**
12. **Disposition of Recalled Products**

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

WILLIAM D. TORRES, Ph.D.
Director IV

(Note: Full text of Bureau Circular No. 8, s. 2001 is available at the Bureau of Food and Drugs, Alabang, Muntinlupa and in its website, bfad@doh.gov.ph)

July 28, 2001 -- Inquirer

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9 Koreans robbed in Boracay

A GROUP of South Korean tourists was robbed but left unharmed by gunmen on the world-famous Boracay island resort, police said yesterday.

The nine South Koreans were returning to their hotel when they were robbed late Thursday, said Supt. Jimmy Rivera, acting police chief of Aklan province, which has jurisdiction over the island.

Police said bamboo poles strewn on a road in the village of Manok-Manok forced the tourists' vehicle to stop. Moments later, three men armed with pistols appeared from the bushes and ordered them to give up their cash and valuables.

The robbers took watches, passports and about P165,000 in cash before leaving, Rivera said.

The South Koreans, who arrived a few days earlier, checked out of their hotel and left for Manila early Friday, Rivera said.

Rivera said regional police chief Rolando Garcia ordered him to speed up the investigation and arrest suspects. He said the vehicle's driver was among those being questioned but is not yet considered a suspect.

The incident occurred despite assurances from authorities that popular beach resorts have been secured to prevent a repeat of the May 27 abduction of 20 people, including three Americans, from Dos Palmas resort in Palawan by the Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf group.

The group was also blamed for an attack on an island resort near Davao City in mid-May. — *AP*

'Isang' threatens N. Luzon

PUBLIC storm signal no. 2 remains hoisted over Isabela and Cagayan provinces, including the Calayan Islands, even as Tropical Storm "Isang" slowed down and changed course due to the development of a high-pressure area south of Hong Kong, the weather bureau reported.

Isang continues to threaten extreme northern Luzon with rough to very rough coastal waters, which are dangerous to all types of seacraft.

Public storm signal no. 1 remains in effect over the rest of northern Luzon, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, northern Quezon, Polilio Island, the Camarines provinces and Catanduanes.

The weather bureau said Isang would induce monsoon rains over the country, especially over the western and southern sections of Luzon, including Metro Manila, Pangasinan, the lahar areas in Central Luzon, the Mayon Volcano area and Western Visayas.

Pagasa has advised residents of low-lying as well as mountainous areas to take measures against floods and landslides.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, satellite and surface data showed the center of the storm at 510 kilometers east southeast of Aparri, Cagayan, or 580 kms southeast of Basco, Batanes, with strongest winds of 95 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness up to 120 kph.

It is forecast to move west-northwest at 13 kph in the general direction of the Cagayan-Batanes area.

Isang is forecast to be at 230 kms southeast of Aparri, or 340 kms southeast of Basco, by this afternoon. It is likely to gain strength within the next 12 hours, Pagasa warned. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Jai alai opening soon, says solon

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) is reportedly gearing up to resume operating jai alai games, despite a Supreme Court ruling it does not have a valid franchise to do so.

Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval yesterday said reliable sources at Pagcor told him the government agency was "priming up for the re-opening of jai alai on Aug. 7."

"My sources told me that Pagcor is confident the Supreme Court would act favorably on the second motion for reconsideration it filed with the court to operate jai alai games," said Sandoval.

Sandoval was one of four representatives in the 11th Congress who filed a petition questioning the validity of jai alai operations under the Pagcor.

The other solons were former Quezon City congressman turned housing czar Michael Defensor, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri and former Cebu City Rep. Raoul del Mar.

The high court had earlier ruled that the Pagcor did not have a valid franchise to operate jai alai games and that it needed a legislative permit to do so.

The court denied the Pagcor's first motion for reconsideration.

Sandoval said he fears the second motion for reconsideration pending before the tribunal would get its nod.

"This is to pre-empt any efforts to influence the court—not to cast any aspersions on it but to raise an alarm over the claims of Pagcor that it would be operating jai alai games by Aug. 7," Sandoval said. *Rocky Nazareno*

Roco wants elementary, HS tests abolished

DAVAO CITY—After the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), the National Standard Aptitude Test (NSAT) and the National Elementary Achievement Test (NEAT) may be the next school requirements to be abolished.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said Thursday the NSAT does not really measure the aptitude of students or how much they learned after four years of high school.

"They (NSAT and NEAT) give distorted results because students only review for them for one month and they are given all the questions and answers," Roco said.

He said, however, he could not just abolish the two tests without consulting with the different school officials. "But if you give me a resolution, I could abolish them tomorrow," he said.

Roco said he would leave it to the schools to formulate their own aptitude tests to assess the capabilities of their students.

In this manner, he said, schools could adopt tests that were more suitable to their own needs and expectations.

"What may work for Ateneo de Davao University may not work for the University of the Philippines," he said.

Roco said although some schools may adopt much harder tests than others, the tests would eventually level out.

He said the P132-million budget for conducting NSAT and NEAT tests for elementary and high school pupils would be better spent for the salaries of teachers.

The NSAT was adopted in 1995 after students and their parents demanded the replacement of the National College Entrance Exam (NCEE), with a less discriminatory aptitude test.

Roco said the NCEE had become a source of corruption where the students could buy questions and answers, and even grades.

In the past weeks, college students taking ROTC have been protesting the compulsory graduation requirement, citing its "irrelevance" in these times and the corruption endemic in the corps of officers.

This after a University of Santo Tomas student Mark Uy was allegedly killed by his ROTC officers after he exposed corruption in the corps.

Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fear of bugging bugs Erap lawyers

NOW they are bugged about bugging.

Lawyers of ousted president Estrada are now worried that the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where the ousted leader is confined could be "bugged."

Using this as a new argument, the defense lawyers pressed the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division to immediately resolve their motion to have Estrada placed under house arrest, as well as another motion to allow their client a "home visit."

Explaining their "seeming paranoia," Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag said in his motion filed on Thursday that the intelligence community would presumably "feel obligated, as in duty bound, to monitor lead accused (Estrada)."

He said the Estradas needed to be allowed to "confer with us in some office or preferably their homes" as there were certain things that a client would have to discuss with his lawyer that should not be for public consumption.

But Ombudsman Aniano Desierto commented that this was a "wrong presumption."

He challenged the Estrada lawyers to raise the suspected bugging in court.

He said the defense was just using this as an excuse to go around the court's ruling against their motion for house arrest and home visit.

Meanwhile, the Sandiganbayan yesterday resolved a prosecution motion to censure or cite for contempt the Estradas and their lawyers for speaking publicly against the court.

Instead of the censure, which Desierto had initially sought, the court just "reminded" the defense and prosecution not to mock the court's integrity and independence. *Donna S. Cueto*

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Gloria: I know who's involved

MIKE AND GLORIA ARROYO: Not your average neighborhood couple.

(From page A1)

Caesar's wife. We must be above suspicion," Ms Macapagal told reporters, even as she repeated that her husband had rejected the allegations.

"We will have to get to the bottom of things. No ifs, no buts," the President said, although Mike Arroyo had earlier dismissed his exchange of accusations with Rodrigo as a "misunderstanding between friends."

In a statement released by their lawyers yesterday, the two telecom companies "denied they paid any money to, or bribed any person, in or outside the government, in seeking a reconsideration of President Macapagal's veto on their franchise application."

Ms Macapagal revealed that she already knew the identities of the people who were probably involved in the controversy, but declined to name names.

"I did conduct my own internal investigation and I know many things already about who are probably involved," the President said.

"But it's not for me to say it's not my husband. Let somebody say it. And it's not for me to say who are involved. Let somebody else say it," she added.

Mike's idea

She said that it was her husband's idea to have himself investigated because he wanted the truth to come out. Arroyo flew to the United States on vacation after the allegations made headlines.

"The First Gentleman is looking forward to facing his accusers in court upon his return from the US sometime next week," Ms Macapagal said.

"So aside from my own investigation, which is for my own satisfaction, (we want to know) who these people have been in cahoots with along the whole trail," she said.

The President said she first thought of calling for the investigation of her husband in her State of the Nation Address, in which she encouraged the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate allegations of graft in high places.

She said that she decided against it since the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission is directly under her authority.

"I decided against it, as they would say it's not independent. So it has to be somebody independent," she said.

The usual suspects?

The lawyers of PCCI and APC Wireless denied that owner Marcelo was "fronting for anybody," in response to communications officials' suspicions that Marcelo was acting for Dichaves.

The two vetoed bills would have granted franchises to the firms to operate a telecom clearinghouse and a new nationwide telecom system.

Under the administration of Joseph Estrada, a similar franchise scheme was being worked out by Marcelo and other Estrada nominees in the board of the sequestered Philcomsat, but their plans were overtaken by People Power II.

Marcelo was also a consultant of Dialogue Communications, the telecom trading company controlled by Estrada front man Dichaves.

In addition to Marcelo, lawyer Edward Serapio, Estrada's former lawyer and now his co-accused in the ex-President's plunder case, was also appointed by Estrada to the Philcomsat board, but never took his place on the board because of the Juetengate scandal.

The lawyers for the concerned companies said that "as far as PCCI and APC are concerned, all business transactions were aboveboard and we did not break any international or local laws in pursuing our respective franchises, considering that several international companies had indicated interest in funding the venture."

They said the stockholders "are all legitimate businessmen" with the "appropriate technical preparation" in the industry.

"We hold in high respect the decision of the President and we shall not do anything that will lead persons to commit crime and violate laws," the lawyers' statement read.

Opposition and Bing

Ombudsman Aniano Desieto earlier said that his office would not touch the case because Arroyo was a "private citizen."

The President appealed to the opposition to "suspend judgement" on the case and refrain from exploiting the controversy for partisan considerations.

The Senate plans to investigate the allegations. But a problem cropped up after Sen. Joker Arroyo declined to head the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, and offered the chairmanship to Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

In a radio interview, Senator Arroyo denied that the proposed investigation of Mike Arroyo was the reason for his reluctance to head the committee.

"This has nothing to do with Mike Arroyo," he said.

In a press briefing, Pimentel admitted that the opposition has been talking to Rodrigo, but has not come up with any solid evidence against Arroyo.

"Somebody is talking to her upon my (suggestion). I won't say who, but somebody is doing that," he said, amid reports that the opposition has been keeping Rodrigo in a safe house to prepare her testimony against Arroyo in a proposed Senate blue ribbon inquiry.

No evidence

"We have no evidence yet. We will not hit anybody unless we are backed up by evidence, lest we get burned," he said.

"Right now, we are in the process of compiling, collecting and inviting the submission of appropriate evidence in relation to the problem of Mr. Mike Arroyo," he added.

The opposition reportedly hopes to turn Rodrigo into a "Chavit Singson," the whistleblower in Estrada's Juetengate scandal.

Pimentel admitted that the opposition camp was priming Rodrigo as a witness against Arroyo. "It is my view that before we invite Bing Rodrigo, we should already have evidence by then. I know what she will testify upon. We will not summon her only to find out that she will play a different tune," he said.

But in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Pimentel said that he had "not even talked to her" yet.

"I'm setting up a meeting with her," he said, as he denied reports that she was in hiding.

Pimentel said the opposition had received reports that three unnamed friends of Arroyo who also allegedly accepted bribes had also left for the United States.

"What cannot escape my suspicious mind is that some of the people involved in this controversy . . . are reportedly also in the United States," Pimentel said.

Call 'em all

In a radio interview, Sen. John Osmeña said all Palace officials—from the executive secretary to members of the Presidential Management Staff—who reviewed the veto reconsideration requests should also be asked to testify before the Senate.

After Ms Macapagal vetoed the two franchise bills in April, the companies sent a letter to the Palace asking her to reconsider her veto.

A copy was also sent to Congress, and then House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte forwarded the letter to the Palace, but told Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer Gabriel Claudio not to act on it.

Only Congress, through an act supported by two-thirds of the members of each chamber, can override a presidential veto.

Nonetheless, several people lobbied for the "recall" of the veto, according to both Claudio and Pantaleon Alvarez, secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

Among the alleged lobbyists was a former DOTC consultant, Malou Nuñez, whom Alvarez recently accused of blackmailing him with the threat of a sexual harassment suit if he did not intervene in favor of the telecom firms.

With reports from Vic Agustin; AFP

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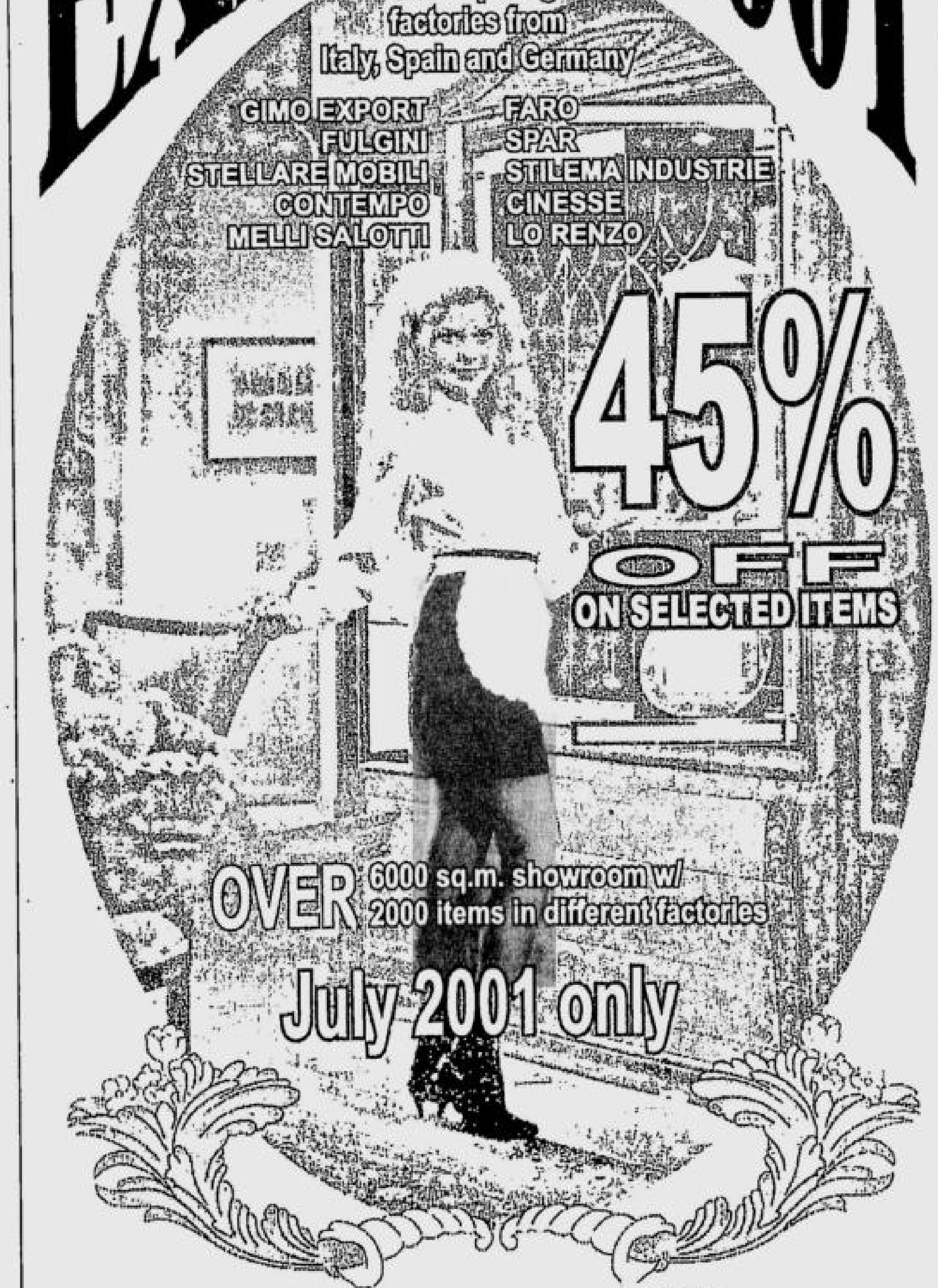
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Philip Morris says 'sorry' for Czech study

NEW YORK—Tobacco giant Philip Morris apologized Thursday for a study commissioned last month by its Czech affiliate that outlined cost savings for Czech Republic from smoking, including the premature death of smokers.

In a company release, Philip Morris said the report "exhibited terrible judgment as well as a complete and unacceptable disregard of basic human values."

The decision to commission the study was "not just a terrible mistake. It was wrong. All of us at Philip Morris, no matter where we work, are extremely sorry for this," said the release.

"No one benefits from the very real, serious and significant diseases caused by smoking," it said.

The report, which was carried out in early July by consulting firm Arthur Little on Philip Morris' behalf, outlined a number of economic benefits that smoking can provide for a country's budget.

These included the health care savings stemming from early smoking-related deaths as well as tax revenues on tobacco sales.

According to the report, the premature demise of smokers saved the Czech government between $23.8 million and $30.1 million on health care, pensions and housing for the elderly in 1999.

Even after the cost of caring for sick smokers and people made ill by second-hand smoke, the report concludes that in 1999 the government had a net gain of $147.1 million from smoking.

At the time of its release, the company said the report was aimed at defusing criticism by the Czech government that its products have actually been weighing on government finances.

The report drew angry protests from anti-tobacco activists in the United States and Europe, culminating in a demonstration outside the company's New York headquarters this week.

"We understand the outrage that has been expressed and we sincerely regret this extraordinarily unfortunate incident," Philip Morris said.

But Matthew Myers of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids called the apology "a cynical act of damage control unless the company also supports real change to reduce the deadly toll of tobacco."

Myers noted that a Wall Street Journal report said Philip Morris was preparing similar studies in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia.

"These studies show the lengths to which Philip Morris is willing to go to block effective government action to reduce tobacco use . . . We don't need any more empty apologies or public relations gestures. If Philip Morris is serious, it should support effective policies that can bring about a real reduction in the death and disease caused by its products." *AFP*

Spratly code in place by September–Guingona

GUINGONA

HANOI, Vietnam—A "code of conduct" to help prevent armed clashes over disputed territories in the South China Sea is likely to be approved by September, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said yesterday.

Guingona, who is also the concurrent foreign secretary, said he is optimistic the code will be approved by all the claimants before a meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers that month in New York.

The claimants have been working on a code of conduct for more than a year and have reached agreement on most issues, but continue to differ over what areas of the sea it would cover.

The Philippines has prepared a compromise that removes any reference to a specific geographical area, Guingona said.

"Just don't mention it," he said, referring to the region covered.

Six governments have conflicting claims to parts of the South China Sea, which is considered one of Asia's most dangerous potential flashpoints. Busy shipping lanes pass through the area, which also has rich fishing grounds and is thought to lie atop oil and gas deposits.

Four Asean governments, along with China and Taiwan, have conflicting claims to the Spratly Island group in the South China Sea.

The Philippines and China both claim Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing ground farther north in the sea, while Vietnam and China have competing claims to the Paracel islands to the southwest.

The disputes have sparked some small armed clashes over the years.

China has reportedly resisted efforts to include the Paracel islands in the code.

Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plan to meet in September on the sidelines of a UN General Assembly session in New York.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Asean members claiming part or all of the Spratlys are the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. *AP*

RP to buy cheaper drugs from India

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday the Philippines would import medicine from India to cut by half the average cost of over-the-counter drugs.

A presidential statement said Arroyo met with outgoing Indian ambassador to Manila Santinder Kumar Uppal and relayed to him "the crucial need for keeping the prices of medicines down" in the Philippines.

The trade department was already expecting shipments of at least eight of the most widely used locally prescribed medicines, it said.

The shipment costs P20 million ($370,400), but would have cost five times higher if bought from local pharmaceutical companies, Arroyo said.

Most medicines here are supplied by western pharmaceutical companies who hold the patents for their drugs and sell them at high prices.

Indian pharmaceutical companies have for years been making cheaper, generic drugs, undercutting the multinationals but at the risk of incurring the wrath of global trading bodies.

But in April the world's biggest pharmaceutical manufacturers abandoned a lawsuit against the South African government, leaving it free to buy cheap anti-AIDS drugs and paving the way for other countries to do the same.

In her first state of the nation address to Congress, Arroyo on Monday pledged to cut by 50 percent the cost of medicines to make them more affordable to poor Filipinos. *AFP*

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EDITORIALS

Fragile

SENATORS broke their leadership impasse on the eve of the opening of the 12th Congress with the election of Sen. Franklin Drilon as Senate president. Drilon won 13-11, a result that illustrates how precarious the balance of power in the Senate is. The balance rests on the fulcrum of just two votes. This should warn the Macapagal administration that it has to walk through a minefield to get her legislative agenda approved by the Senate. A close look at the alignment in the Senate shows the fragility of the administration's control of the Senate.

One way of looking at Drilon's election is that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has asserted her political dominance over Congress with the capture of the speakership of the House and the Senate presidency by people of her choice. Some senators, among them Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sergio Osmeña III and Blas Ople, have denounced presidential intervention in the selection, saying this was an infringement on the independence of Congress.

Protestations of legislative independence are old hat and have in fact become ritualistic, so they are not unexpected. The reality is that the presidency is the most powerful branch, and it is a political truism that what the President wants, the President gets. If this was true with Manuel Quezon or Joseph Estrada, it is true with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Pimentel's denunciation of intervention on grounds of legislative independence sounds hollow and self-serving. He was Drilon's rival for Senate president. In fact, Edgardo Angara's Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa (which compose the largest Senate bloc with eight votes) rallied behind him. During Estrada's presidency, Pimentel was not the most outspoken defender of the Senate's independence. True, he was one of 10 senators who voted to open the second envelope in the impeachment trial of Estrada, but the 11-10 vote that kept the envelope sealed was not the best evidence of the glory of the Senate's independence relative to the executive. The Senate majority's subservience to then President Estrada preempted the Chief Justice's option to rule on the opening of the second envelope and scuttled the impeachment process. It left the Senate severely damaged as a key institution of Philippine democracy. Pimentel used that disgraceful vote of the Senate to prop up his quest for the Senate presidency on grounds of the Senate's independence. He used the wrong argument.

Bizarre

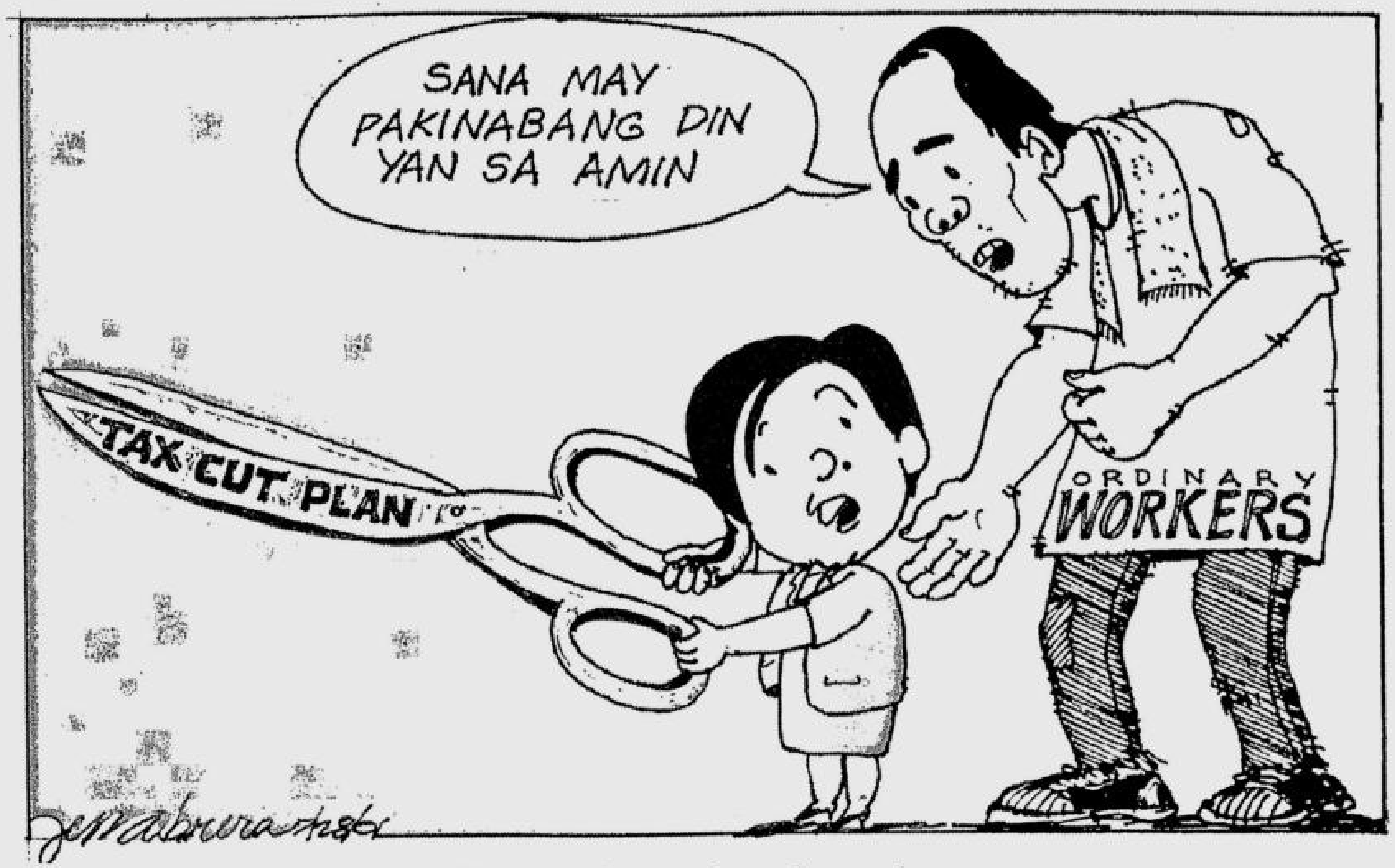
THE OTHER bewildering and bizarre outcome of the Senate organization is that Pimentel is now the minority leader although his party has only two seats: those of Pimentel himself and Sergio Osmeña III. This defies logic. The real minority is Angara's LDP which can count eight votes.

No doubt, the decisive factor in Drilon's election was that the President backed him and applied suasive efforts (read, pressure) to secure his election. Drilon had a small core base of support. With the support of four Lakas holdovers and the four People Power Coalition newcomers (a total of eight), Drilon had to win five more senators. The deadlock was decided by the vote of an independent, Sen. Noli de Castro.

The decisive role of independents as swing votes—one is not sure whether two senators will switch sides over such issues as rewards (i.e., committee chairmanships)—emphasizes instability in the Senate that can pose a problem to the passage of administration measures.

The important point is that there must be a legislative agenda initiated by the administration in coordination with the Senate majority. To avoid unnecessary risks, the administration must present a lean and very focused agenda that does not contain more than six items. Then it can narrow the field of combat with the opposition on key items against which the opposition can propose its own agenda. Thus, the issues can be joined.

So far, the Macapagal administration has demonstrated a capacity to get things done despite the political turbulence following her assumption of the presidency. It pushed through the last Congress the power reform bill. It installed its own people as Senate president and Speaker of the House. It can hold its thin majority in the Senate. But in case a new leadership challenge arises, which is not unexpected, the reason will not spring from the senators' undying loyalty to the cause of legislative independence. Self-interest is a more compelling motivation.


SANA MAY PAKINABANG DIN YAN SA AMIN
TAX CUT PLAN
ORDINARY WORKERS

Intruders in the sky

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I SUPPOSE it was too much to expect, but I was hoping President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would mention something in her State of the Nation Address last Monday about the obtrusive airplanes that have molested the residents of Merville and adjacent subdivisions these many years.

I say this in jest but not to trivialize the matter. It is in fact completely serious. I concede, of course, that it had no place in the Sona, which was understandably limited to the weightier problems besetting the nation. But I'm still hoping President Macapagal will consider the difficulties of the residents of Merville that, despite their comparative insignificance from the national viewpoint, still deserve her concern.

This problem has harassed us since the Aquino administration but we have received no relief so far despite our continuing complaint. The Ramos administration paid no heed to our protests even with our support from Gen. Jose Almonte, one of its most influential figures and himself a Merville resident. The Estrada regime was also indifferent, apparently being more interested in cultivating its cronies, including the airline owners.

We in Merville do not pretend that our complaint is as massive or urgent as the problem of poverty, which properly received the President's attention in her address. Nevertheless, although limited in scale, the intrusion of the abusive airplanes into our right of repose and to a healthful environment is something that the government cannot indefinitely disregard as a minor matter not worth considering.

The more our officials turn a deaf ear to our entreaties, the more we in Merville will become actually deaf. This is neither fiction nor hyperbole. Semito Alparce, our lead community crusader against the airplanes, is now suffering, probably like many others in our subdivision, from impaired hearing. This is a physical fact that he attributes to the oppressive roar of the airplanes flying directly over his house at all hours of the day every day of the week.

Those speaking with us on the telephone are familiar with the annoying interruptions caused by the rude airplanes that drown out our conversation as they rend the air above us. If President Macapagal takes the trouble to call up any of us in Merville during the daytime, she'll realize—but will not hear—what we're talking about. Maybe she can try it, if only to test what I'm saying.

The protection of the environment is an international effort in which we in the Philippines should be actively involved. This project calls not only for the cleansing of the air and the waters but also the eradication of the causes of noise pollution. It is not enough that we conserve our forests and preserve the animals from indiscriminate slaughter and extinction. It is vitally necessary that human beings also—indeed, above everything else—are protected from the man-made assaults that threaten their health and well-being.

Other countries more developed than the Philippines have placed more value on the welfare of their citizens than on the compulsions of commerce and progress. Airplanes causing excessive noise have been banned from their territories or required to install effective noise diffusers to prevent their racket from polluting the environment. By ironic contrast, our government has cynically allowed our own airplanes to impose their noise upon our own people to the prejudice of their peace and quiet. Our officials obviously regard our own citizens as less important than the demands of profit for the *taipans* who operate the offending airlines.

If the government is not much bothered by the inconveniences we adults endure from the arrogant airplanes, it should at least manifest its concern for the health and lives of our children. These tots are more susceptible to the danger of incurring long-term damage to their eardrums if not their psyche from the oppressive noise they have to bear. For their sake, if not of their elders, the government should earnestly pursue the eradication of the oppressive airplane noise once and for all.

Let it not be said that we have tolerated this imposition and in effect condoned it. The truth is that we have never stopped complaining about it. The Air Transport Office has been of little help, if at all. Roilo Golez, our former congressman, has come and gone and with him his promise of a legislative investigation of our plight. Mayor Joey Marquez also pledged to do something, which, as it turned out, was to divide his time between his public office and his TV career. He can't even collect the garbage in our city.

I hope our new congressman, Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, who also resides in Merville, can do better. As one also assailed by the noise of the intrusive airplanes, he should be able to personally understand our common predicament and act more resolutely against it where his predecessor has failed. Perhaps Edsa can prove the familiar adage that a new broom sweeps clean.

I realize that it's not easy to go against the airlines responsible for these disturbances that have bedeviled Merville and nearby areas all these years. I suppose they exert a great deal of influence on the government compared to the few thousands of us residents who are suddenly remembered only during election time and then blithely ignored for the next three years. In this mercenary age, business considerations far outweigh the interests of ordinary citizens like us, who have become used to tilting at windmills.

If all else fails, as it has failed so far, our last resort must be to the President of the Philippines, where the buck stops. For years we have been oppressed by the intrusive airplanes with the active support of the Air Transport Office and the indifferent neglect of our elective representatives in Congress and Parañaque City. It is time for the government to put a stop to this injustice and recognize the supremacy of human rights over its idolatrous worship of the profit peso.

The Constitution gives the residents of Merville the right, as part of their freedom of expression, to petition the government for redress of their grievances. I hope the administration of President Macapagal will hear us this time and finally grant us the relief we have so far been demanding in vain.

Cheap shot

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE ONLY opposition senator whose comments on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address made any sense was Loi Estrada, who said something to the effect that she was glad that Ms Macapagal was pushing through with her husband's programs. Actually, Loi hit it right on the nose, because the targets that the President announced were based on the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2001-2004, which perforce is very similar to Joseph Estrada's "Angat Pinoy," the name given to the MTPDP 1999-2004.

I say perforce because after all, Ms Macapagal was very much involved in the formulation of Angat Pinoy since she headed its social reform and development committee. I haven't actually read the latest plan (it isn't out yet, awaiting a final workshop in Malacañang next Tuesday), but based on her Sona, it is clear that the key themes are the same.

There may be a difference in emphasis, though. The new plan gives much greater emphasis to good governance, agricultural modernization, tourism and information and communications technology. Which also makes good sense.

Given the similarities between the two plans, one has to wonder how Sen. Nene Pimentel, who was a member of the Angat Pinoy Plan steering committee, can be such a bitter critic, with his unflattering comments about the similarities between Ms Macapagal's targets and Sunshine Joe de Venecia's offering-the-moon promises.

Sen. Edgardo Angara can be asked the same thing. After all, he was also a member of the steering committee and chaired the agriculture, agrarian reform and natural resources planning committee. Of course, Angara came in rather late (he had to wait a year before getting the agriculture portfolio) but on the other hand, Willy Dar was reputed to be only warming Angara's seat, and Angara's men were already in position in the department.

The other opposition legislators who figured very large in the Estrada administration also really have no business throwing stones at Ms Macapagal's plans now, when they made us believe that Estrada's plans then were achievable. But while I can understand why cheap politicians and cheap shots go hand in hand, somehow I expected more from Pimentel and Angara.

The politicians' main gripes are: (1) there are too many targets—not enough focus; (2) it would cost too much to achieve them, and therefore they are not achievable; and (3) they're the wrong targets and won't help the poor.

On the other hand, ironically, some critics from civil society believe that the President Macapagal's targets don't go far enough to lift the poor out of their poverty. Others underscore ideological differences: the targets are doomed to failure because they are based on a free enterprise/globalization/WTO framework. Still others assert that all these Sonas are the same anyway, and since the others failed, there is no reason to think that this one will succeed. One even claimed that without a fixed exchange rate combined with currency and capital controls à la Malaysia, no way would the targets be achieved.

So what is one to think?

Well, for one, it is very hard to disagree with targets that have to do with more and better education, more and better jobs, adequate housing and food on the table. Those are motherhood statements.

For another, one can argue until kingdom come about the flaws of a market-based economy, but let's face it, there is no country in the world, with the possible exception of North Korea, that has not accepted a market system in one form or another. It is the government-market mix that is the issue, not whether or not free enterprise should be allowed.

For a third, while Ms Macapagal and Erap have similar MTPDP, the similarity ends there. Ms Macapagal's Sona has at least 35 specific and measurable targets, against which we can judge her performance; Erap's had very few (with the notable exception of "*Walang kaibigan*...."). Ms Macapagal is very familiar with the MTPDP; Erap's interest ended with the naming of his "Angat Pinoy." Ms Macapagal knows that if she doesn't deliver on these targets (assuming Congress cooperates with her requests for legislation) her chances for reelection in 2004 are nil; Erap had no such Sword of Damocles. The corruption charges that the opposition are trying to smear Ms Macapagal with (using the Bing Rodrigo-Mike Arroyo revelations) ignore the fact that Ms Macapagal was not involved in any transaction, and never changed her veto, which was the aim of the alleged bribe. Erap was allegedly directly involved in all the corruption charges against him.

So the argument really boils down to two main issues: one is whether the government has the financial resources necessary to put its money where its mouth is with regard to the targets it has put forward. And the other is whether the government has the managerial resources or competence to achieve the target.

The answer to the first is an unequivocal yes, if only because Budget Secretary Emy Boncodin is not only competent, she would die first before putting her boss at risk. The answer to the second is arguably yes: President Macapagal went through those targets at least five times with the Cabinet secretaries involved. Plus, she knows what the consequences of failing to reach those targets are.

Bets, anyone?

Trains to decongest Metro Manila

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SENATE President Franklin Drilon, in his inaugural speech last Monday at the Senate, pledged, among other things, to promote industrial peace. I have little doubt that Drilon would do this as Senate chief, for this is one of his legacies in the Department of Labor and Employment that he headed from 1987 to 1990. In fact, promoting industrial peace was an achievement of Drilon that first caught my attention way back when I hardly knew him.

Human rights lawyer Bobbit Sanchez was Cory Aquino's first labor minister, but his tenure was soon marred by strikes that escalated to alarming proportions, despite his links to labor groups. After Sanchez resigned from the Cabinet to run for the Senate, his deputy, Drilon, took his place. At first I had misgivings about how the labor sector would take to Drilon as he had been a longtime corporate lawyer. To the surprise of many, the number of strikes declined dramatically during his watch. This has to be ascribed to Drilon's amiable style of conflict resolution.

* * *

Sen. Joker Arroyo has intimated that he does not want to get the chairmanship of the powerful Senate blue ribbon committee, and that Sen. Nene Pimentel, who used to chair it in the old Congress prior to becoming Senate president, could have it if he wished. This has led to speculations that Joker is hesitant to tackle the alleged bribery case involving First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

I doubt, though, that this is the reason. Joker has tackled far tougher cases during the martial law years from which he never flinched. I suspect it's because he knows that the blue ribbon committee has the heaviest workload. Joker is basically a guy who wants to be comfortable, especially now that he's getting on in years. That committee, which is referred to as the "*tambakan*" of the Senate, received 118 referrals in the last Congress, or an average of one referral every two session days.

* * *

Former Negros Rep. Mike Romero and his wife Menchu hosted a lovely dinner recently for retired Philippine Ambassador to the UN Philip Mabilangan and his wife Ada (Mabilangan has since been appointed as a member of a powerful UN oversight committee based in New York). Among the guests were Speaker Joe de Venecia, and it is a tribute to the long friendship between Romero and him that his first socials after assuming the speakership was that dinner. Since Romero and De Venecia are first-class raconteurs the dinner lasted till past midnight.

We were all impressed by the way De Venecia is handling the unenviable task of apportioning committee chairmanships among House members. For instance, three members wanted the labor committee—Ruben Torres of Zambales (FVR's former executive secretary), Kristel Lagman-Luistro of Albay and Crispin Beltran of Bayan Muna. De Venecia felt, however, that he couldn't accommodate any one of these three progressive representatives as they would "frighten the investors." De Venecia's solomonic decision: include the labor chairmanship among the 15 committees to be given to a major pillar of his "Sunshine Coalition," the Nationalist People's Coalition, which has 55 House members. "I let NPC leader Gilbert Teodoro worry about it," he said. NPC chose Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga, a logical choice since he held the same post in the last Congress.

* * *

In his efforts to unite the House, De Venecia gets ample help from wife Gina de Venecia. He has nominated erstwhile rival Butch Abad to join President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on her trip to Kuala Lumpur next month, while wife Gina invited new Rep. Cynthia Villar to join her and former Rep. Emily Lopez on a trip to Iligan City to condole with Lanao del Norte Rep. Alipio Badelles on the death of his mother Rosa. Cynthia earlier sent shock waves to the House floor when she voted, together with 16 other representatives, for Rep. Carling Padilla for Speaker. Apparently Cynthia resented Lakas' fielding a candidate against her last May 14 in Las Piñas, for which she blamed De Venecia, the Lakas chair, even though her husband Manny ran for the Senate under the PPC. Gina's invitation to Cynthia was obviously part of the efforts to woo her to Lakas.

* * *

National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) secretary general Ging Quintos Deles, in a guest appearance on the dzRH anti-poverty show hosted by Cecile Guidote-Alvarez last Sunday evening, which this columnist co-hosts, expounded on the various pillars of the anti-poverty strategy of the administration. We sought to make her speak in concrete terms so that she would be understood by the radio audience. For instance, Deles explained that the government's micro-lending program, which is being implemented by the NAPC based on the famous and highly successful Grameen system in Bangladesh, is funded by the Land Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and coursed through the People's Credit and Finance Corp. The loans to small, mostly women entrepreneurs operate on the principle of peer pressure: loans are guaranteed by one's colleagues, usually neighbors. Deles stressed that at the moment there are about 300,000 small borrowers, but the administration wants to push for one million new borrowers by 2004.

In this regard it should be mentioned that in a recent meeting with bankers, De Venecia encouraged them to help the government's micro-lending scheme by setting up at least two such facilities in various regions of the country. The bankers agreed, and documents are being rushed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for 80 micro-lending facilities.

* * *

Deles also spoke of anti-poverty programs in human development where government is committed to rendering basic education, health, shelter and other basic needs. There are the "Gloria Labandera" rolling stores in the 1,000 most depressed areas of the country, including some 30 barangays identified as "Kalahi" sites in the National Capital Region.

Deles also spoke of efforts to make life in Metro Manila more livable. One way is to go full blast into urban housing, by developing big areas like Welfareville in Mandaluyong and allocating them to the poor families which have stayed the longest in the areas. Side by side with this, however, are efforts to encourage people to live outside by ensuring an efficient and modern community transport system. This means having trains running to and from Manila to suburban towns by 2004, which would link up with the MRT and LRT trains inside the metropolis.

The thinking is that people prefer to stay in the city where they work because commuting from the provinces can be difficult. By providing regular train service from Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan, people would be encouraged to live outside. Deles said housing czar Mike Defensor took a train to Calauan, Laguna, and it took him only 30 minutes. In other countries, commuter trains are popular because they are clean, dependable and affordable. A commuter train system will decongest and modernize the metropolis and bring it closer to par with other cities abroad.

Taiwanese seek bright future on mainland

FEATURE

Benjamin Kang Lim

TAIPEI—Taiwan businessman James Yang and his wife Jenny Chiu are staunch supporters of President Chen Shui-bian's pro-independence party and could not care less about the island's giant rival China. Or at least they didn't care until Yang became one of the many thousands of Taiwan people moving to the booming communist mainland for work.

Today, Yang is employed by a Taiwan-funded electronics firm near Shanghai and he wants his wife and their 3-year-old daughter to join him. His wife is not happy about moving to China and has not yet decided if she will go.

"Many Taiwanese men have little choice but to come to the mainland if they want to find careers with potential for development," 36-year-old Yang, who has a US master's degree in business administration, said during a recent visit home.

"I have no plans to return (to Taiwan) in the short term. What will I come back to?" Yang said, alluding to Taiwan's record unemployment and its slowest economic growth in decades. "In the past, the trend was emigrating to the United States. Today, it's emigrating to the mainland."

Yang's wife, a 33-year-old office worker, bemoans the family's predicament. "I don't want to move. Life in Taiwan is comfortable. I don't think the economic situation is that bad," said Chiu, whose parents and in-laws have voted for Chen's pro-independence party in every election since the late 1980s. "It's really sad. In the past, old Nationalist soldiers were separated from their families because of civil war. Today, families are separated because of the mainland's economic boom."

The couple is grappling with the same decision that the island faces: Should it hitch its fate to the coattails of China's booming economy, or stay aloof and hope for the best?

The mainland and Taiwan have been at odds since the communists' 1949 civil war victory when Nationalist forces took refuge on the island. For decades, capitalist Taiwan enjoyed strong growth and a much higher standard of living than the mainland. But times have changed since the mainland embraced market reforms and opened its huge market to foreign investment.

Despite the simmering political tension, about 50,000 Taiwanese investors, attracted by low land prices, cheap labor and a common language, have poured $60 billion into the mainland since detente began in the late 1980s. The exodus has grown over the past year because of a crisis of confidence in Taiwan over slow growth and political gridlock in the opposition-controlled legislature.

Taiwanese have made more than 16 million trips to China since a decades-old travel ban was eased in the late 1980s. There are no official figures for the number who have settled in China, but Shanghai alone is thought to be home to an estimated 200,000 Taiwanese.

Books and magazines on investing, working, studying and traveling in China fill the shelves of Taipei bookshops.

Taiwan's leaders have come under mounting pressure from the business community and opposition parties to lift a ban on direct trade and transport links to China and ease curbs on investment there. The island has long dragged its feet on liberalizing ties because for fear economic dependence would make it a political hostage to China. But now Taiwan has to contend not only with being dwarfed by the booming mainland, but seeing its own capital and workers lured in droves across the Taiwan Strait.

"I'm worried Taiwan's standard of living would deteriorate and pale one day compared to China's," said 37-year-old book publisher Yang Lien-fu. "The mainland economy is becoming stronger. Taiwan's is weakening."

Doubts are growing whether the government can hold out much longer and stick to its policy of blocking greater liberalization in the hope of preserving Taiwan's advantages.

Beijing's victorious bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games has intensified the debate by highlighting for many Taiwanese China's rising profile on the world stage, and the danger Taiwan will be isolated in its rival's shadow.

Political analysts say the exodus of Taiwanese investment and workers to China could be exacerbated by Beijing clinching the Olympic Games. Taiwan's leaders have scrambled to play down the benefits the Olympics will bring China, and of investing there. But their efforts have only underscored fears that the Games will unleash a fresh bout of "mainland fever."

Most Taiwanese resent Beijing's invasion threats and moves to isolate the island. Few back reunification on Beijing's terms, although media surveys show growing support for a "one country, two systems" formula, under which the former British colony of Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

In contrast, a survey published last week by the Cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council showed 80.5 percent of those polled favor the political status quo with China. The survey was done a few days before Beijing was awarded the Olympics.

But despite the resentment of what many Taiwanese see as China's bullying, the exodus of investors, workers and students continues and the Taiwan government appears to be fighting a losing battle in trying to stem the tide.

"The government is passive. It seems the only thing it can do is liberalize as slowly as possible," said a China watcher with close links to President Chen's Democratic Progressive Party who asked not to be identified. ***Reuters***

Who decides these things?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

CYPRUS—It was the UN Security Council that declared the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus illegal in 1975 and the arrival of Turkish troops as an invasion. The Turkish Cypriots, on the other hand, view Turkey as their protector from the Greek Cypriots and celebrate that day on the 20th of July with parades and festivities, which event we were invited to attend. But that's getting ahead of our story.

The story begins in 1960 when Britain left her former colony and the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots signed the International Cyprus Treaties governing the island. The other three parties or guarantors of the agreed-upon conditions were Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom.

The Republic of Cyprus thus came into existence, populated by Turkish Cypriots, who consider Turkey their motherland, and Greek Cypriots, who remain loyal to Greece. These two had lived together for 400 years since the arrival of the Ottomans, "zealously guarding their national and religious identity."

From statements issued by Archbishop Makarios, then head of the government, his main purpose was for Cyprus to be annexed to Greece (Enosis) while the Turkish Cypriots preferred to remain an independent republic. Unfortunately, three years after the signing of the agreement on Christmas Eve, the killings began and continued on and off until 1975 when Turkey finally stepped in.

In 1974 the generals who had deposed Makarios and ruled Greece decided it was time to take over Cyprus. It was then that Turkey intervened although the Greeks continue to view this as an invasion.

For whatever politically expedient reasons, England which has bases on the southern side did not intervene. As a matter of fact, Britain actually took the lead and recognized the Greek Cypriot regime as the legal government. One-third of the island was given to the Turkish Cypriots while the remaining two-thirds went to the Greek Cypriots. No compensation was paid the former for whatever property or businesses they may have had in the south.

The Turkish Cypriots, however, refused to recognize the Greek Cypriot regime as the legal government since they have no positions in the new administration or say in any of the policies. They then formed the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) that the UN Security Council proceeded to declare illegal. Only Turkey recognized the new republic. When Bangladesh and Pakistan tried, they were threatened with a loss of aid. An economic and cultural embargo was then imposed on the TRNC that has remained in place for 35 years.

As a result, the Turkish Cypriots are in political and economic limbo. They cannot trade even with Turkey or compete in any sports events, nor can they access the Net directly. They are blocked from international aid and membership in international organizations. International telephone calls have to go through Turkey. Their citizens hold no passports and their airports are closed to international flights affecting their tourism.

There is a high level of frustration among the young who cannot apply for foreign grants or scholarships and professionals are stymied. Most of the young find means of leaving; there are, for instance, 180,000 Turkish Cypriots in England and several thousand in Australia, Canada and the United States, probably outnumbering the 200,000 population of Turkish Cypriots on the island.

The status quo might have gone on indefintely perhaps, but the Greek Cypriots' government has applied for membership in the European Union. It is believed that it will be accepted in a couple of years while ironically it will take many more years for Turkey to be accepted. The Turkish Cypriots believe this will lead to another armed confrontation with their southern neighbors who they claim spend a million dollars a day on armaments. The Turkish Cypriots vow that once the south is recognized by the EU, they will close their borders in order to protect themselves from a repeat of the massacres of 1963 and 1974.

The lead story of the July 23 issue of Newsweek was titled "The Evidence against Milosevic." It was about a massacre in the village of Suva Reka and the cover-up in March of 1999. Sanitary workers were awakened in a southern Kosovo town and driven to Yugoslavia where they allegedly saw Serbs exhuming mass graves. The Gypsy workers were ordered to load the 60 or 80 bodies into refrigerated trucks. It is now claimed that a massive campaign to erase the evidence of massacres and tortures went on for two months until the war ended on June 20. Milosevic, it is said, feared that Nato troops might discover the bodies which would form evidence of his guilt in orchestrating war crimes in the Balkans.

The Turkish Cypriots claim there is a double-standard since the international community did not protest the ethnic cleansing that went on in 1963 and 1974 as it later did for the Serbs. Neither has it expressed concern over missing Turkish Cypriots or homes, farms and businesses that were lost. They consider the Turkish troops as an invasion yet say nothing about the 20,000 Greek troops.

Slovenia, Croatia, Bangladesh and recently East Timor have been recognized, but not the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus. You have to admit they have a point there.

A master of none

Micaela Benedicto

WHEN I was in second grade, I had what one may call a humbling experience. We played a game of smarts in class. With each question, a few contestants were eliminated, until one person was left and crowned lord of the brilliant. Being what you may call a brainiac in those times, I was left with another nerd of a child. Had I won the contest, I probably wouldn't remember it at all, much less write about it. I ended up fleeing from the room in tears.

YOUNGBLOOD

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

My teacher called my parents to school the next day to ask them what was wrong with their daughter. "Why is she so hard on herself?" the teacher asked them.

I have unintentionally blocked out the rest of the story from my memory. Indeed, I hardly remembered anything about that incident as I got older—until an all-too-familiar wave crashed over me 17 years later.

It happened when I was searching for the results of the board exam I had taken two weeks earlier. I did not find my name on the list. I was looking for a keyhole on a doorknob, an opening on a sock where my foot could go through. My heart sank, my whole body went cold, and I was, for a few minutes, mentally and emotionally unstable. I never thought I could become again the little girl in pigtails, who couldn't swallow her colossal pride. I shrank to the size of a pea, looking and feeling like the most insignificant thing one could imagine. I was so sure of myself, so positive and proud, so how on earth could I feel so defeated?

The pigtails and the grade school melodrama became even more alive and vivid when a dear friend of mine showed up that night and let me weep a large wet circle on his shirt. I had known him for 10 years, but he had never seen me in such a "mental" state, crying my eyes out over what could be nothing to other people. For the first time I unabashedly opened up to him, my first boy, and all of a sudden I was 7, 14 and 24 all at the same time. He was with me for four hours, and when he turned to go, I smiled and thought what a sweet moment that was.

As I said earlier, I was in a "mental" state. There were numbers, words and days, blinking like flecks in different colors before my eyes.

I almost forgot to mention that I was a Jack of all trades when I was growing up. I sang quite well and was a self-taught musician, playing melodies from memory on the piano at age 5 or 6. I was never incredibly proud of it, since it was never pointed out to me. I learned to play the guitar from my brother later on, though I never played it as well as I did the piano. I knew how to draw and paint. I was a singer, a math whiz, a writer and poet. I knew there were other colors, other letters and I had names for all of them before I saw the complete spectrum and read Dr. Seuss' extended alphabet. I was an actress too, although I was never on a public stage, not counting school productions. Like other insomniac kids, I saw extraordinary figures in the shadows of simple objects. I also had a number of freak talents, which may sound dumb, so I guess I'll just stop at that.

I was an artist, an inventor, a dreamer. There were too many dreams, too much ambition. Somewhere along the way, I stopped thinking about my purpose in life. Interestingly, I've never thought about it at all until now. After all the years I spent in college and at work, I knew there was something missing: I had forgotten my little dreams.

When was my mind last busy with ideas about such varied themes? The song, the picture, the prose, the stage. I look at my paintings circa 1992, and the piano that's a little too tired and raring for a new piece. The mediums that once occupied permanent places in sphere in both mind and heart went floating into oblivion at some point.

I thought of them as stale and hopeless, and I nearly wished them away. But I couldn't stop the urge to go back to the things I had started and had forgotten to pursue.

As I took my place on the stage at a public production two months ago, and now as I pen a new essay, as I saunter between my brand-new music classes, as I fix my pencils and pastels for an art workshop tomorrow, I realize that the training I've been too proud to ask for is helping me go back to where I had stopped. I am now starting at the exact point in the path I had chosen, which just happens to branch out into so many possibilities.

I've been told, "You're a Jack of all trades, just a Jack of all trades." Well, what's so terrible about that? Maybe I'll find my true genius, maybe not at the moment. I am a master to no one but myself. Now I falter, I catch up, I learn. I still dream. I rediscover. I pick up my brush and paint my potential. I know Jack.

Micaela Benedicto, 24, graduated from the University of the Philippines in Diliman in 1999 and is an aspiring architect, writer, musician and artist.

The real world

Honeyleen M. Pangilinan.

THE REAL world. In school, we were so amazed by these words. We were so anxious to get out of the academe just to be part of it: the big buildings, the busy streets of Makati, the rush of people in office attire, your own money, maybe even your own pad.

Weeks before graduation, we were already hunting for jobs. Getting interviewed was quite easy, with a nice resumé and coming from a prestigious school. We would get several calls weekly from companies that wanted to interview us. Eventually everyone in our circle was employed by well-known companies, with fairly good compensation. Nothing could be worse than being a bum with a college degree, we thought.

Just a year later, we realize how our outlook in life changed. During the first few weeks on the job, we were so excited to work that Monday was a day to look forward to. Always punctual and present, we even found pleasure in working overtime.

Our only goal was to save money. But after a couple of months, we hadn't saved anything. The only things we accumulated were debts from credit card companies and more debts from officemates selling items sold at the office. Our salary was not enough, no matter what the amount was. And our work was not rewarding enough.

We have started going to office late and piling up absences. Some find themselves loathing the boss, work and the office. Everyone has developed Monday sickness and found it hard to work from eight to five, five days a week. We force ourselves to do the same thing every day in anticipation of the payday, and take sick and vacation leaves every now and then just to break the monotony.

Worse, we have realized that the skills and knowledge needed to perform our individual tasks can be learned as we go about doing our jobs. Well, there go the tuition and the years of striving for honors.

To add insult to injury, one suddenly meets or hears about an old classmate who could not even make the verb agree with the subject and who is now earning big bucks. One suddenly feels underpaid and unsatisfied with his job.

Before you know it, you have resigned and have again become one of the job-seekers. But you can count yourself lucky to realize this before you have become too old and too burdened with responsibilities to get away from it all and yearn for change.

Is this all what we've worked hard for? We've spent 15 years in school preparing for the real world. We have spent long hours totaling maybe a few years studying for exams, finishing papers, thesis, homework and projects. Hundreds of hours were spent listening to boring lectures on derivatives, solving for x and memorizing theories, laws, formulas and philosophies of different people only to end up with more exams, papers, homework and projects.

But at least in school, you have the sixth grade after you finish the fifth, then you have high school, college and so on. In the real world, the chances of moving up the corporate ladder is so slim for fresh grads on their first job, especially if seniority determines promotions. This wasn't taught in school. You have to learn it first-hand.

The real world—it is not so amazing anymore. As I walk along the busy streets of Makati, I find myself thinking, "After the next payday I'll resign. I'll apply for a more suitable job with a better company so that I will get my education's worth." But I know that on the next payday, I'll be thinking the same thing.

Honeyleen M. Pangilinan, 21, a marketing management graduate of De La Salle University, has been working in a private corporation for more than a year now.

LETTERS

Investigating the President's husband

WE commend the Senate for its decision to investigate the reported bribery case involving First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and three others who allegedly connived for the recall of a vetoed telecommunications franchise. Following the claims of former correspondence secretary Bing Rodrigo, it is good to hear Sen. Aquilino Pimentel say the President's husband will be investigated.

Aside from the involvement of Arroyo, this case has caught our attention because a notorious crony of ousted President Estrada, Jaime Dichaves, is among the owners of the telecommunications firm. If this is true, it is a shame that the President's husband is associated with Dichaves.

Dichaves has long been identified as one of Estrada's accomplices in the crime of plunder. During the impeachment trial, he presented himself as the real owner of the infamous Jose Velarde accounts.

At this time, we are disappointed with the continuing failure of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to sue Dichaves, Dante Tan and William Gatchalian. We reiterate our demand that the Ombudsman and the President bring these people before the courts of justice. We must not allow them to go scot-free.

We remember the importance of live media coverage during the Senate impeachment proceedings. We ask the Supreme Court to review its recent decision banning media coverage on the trial of Estrada's plunder case at the Sandiganbayan.

We also ask the Supreme Court justices to allow the investigation of the Jose Velarde accounts and other questionable accounts of Estrada.

We demand our right to witness the trial and examine closely if the wheels of justice are indeed turning at the Sandiganbayan. In the face of all the delaying and diversionary moves of Estrada's lawyers, we strongly believe that allowing live media coverage will keep the public informed and ensure that truth and justice will prevail.—**AMIE LAURIO DURAL, Plunder Watch Network, NCCP Compound, 879 Edsa, Quezon City**

Australia remains a nice place to live in

I WOULD like to comment about the remarks made on "Racism very real in Australia, says migrant" by Vincent Cabreza. It seems that we are pre-judging what has happened to the Gonzales family by soliciting views that do not reflect the situation in Australia.

Please remember that we Filipinos are not any much better when it comes to racism. We have abused and neglected our own aborigines, and please explain how most people back home make stereotypes of Chinese, Indian and people who have a darker skin color than the rest of us. If any person in Australia makes a remark about a person's looks and stereotypical putdowns of other people, he will land himself in big trouble. It is hypocritical of the person that was interviewed to say that he or she does not have any racial preferences.

I have encountered the kind of people referred to by the migrant but that is usually the case when you are in a new place. One should not expect everybody to respond to one's greetings and that does not mean they are racists!

I have been here for almost three years now and I only encountered one real "redneck"; the rednecks are situated in the bush. Most of these people are lazy. They blame the migrants for their own misery, which is not true in the urban centers. Rarely does one encounter such a person.

Australia is a great place to live in, even though one can be taxed as high as 42 percent if he earns over $50,000 a year. But you don't feel cheated, since you see where your money is going.

Incidents like the Gonzales' murder are hideous, but they do not paint the real picture of multicultural Australia.—**EUGENE CALALANG, Eugene.Calalang @hancorp.com.au**

Military denies seeking Bayan Muna's ouster

THIS pertains to the statements of Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Lisa Maza, all nominees of the Bayan Muna party list that were aired on several television stations and published in some newspapers last July 23.

Ocampo, a former spokesperson for the communist-led National Democratic Front, Crispin Beltran of Kilusang Mayo Uno, and Lisa Maza, all winning representatives of party-list topnotcher Bayan Muna in the last national elections, alleged that the military was scouting for other party-list groups that would seek the disqualification of their group. This was the hypothesis of Bayan Muna for the Commission on Elections' failure to proclaim the party-list winners before the 12th Congress, which opened last July 23.

We wish to refute this baseless allegation, because the military has absolutely no say in the affairs of the Comelec. Strictly abiding by our own Code of Ethics and performing our duties as mandated by the Constitution, we would never participate in political exercises or exert influence on other party-list groups to persecute another. The only role that we performed during the last elections and in past elections was ensuring a peaceful and orderly conduct of the electoral process in many parts of the land.

Contrary to Ocampo's claim, the military organization welcomes the CPP/NPA/NDF in the mainstream parliamentary system. We hope this will strengthen their resolve to pursue their cause through non-violent means.

We also commend Bayan Muna and other civil society groups for their very peaceful demonstration during the President's first State of the Nation Address last July 23.—**LT. COL. JOSE Z. MABANTA JR., army chief public affairs, Office of the Army Chief Public Affairs, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City**

Real culprit is globalization

AMANDO Doronila's column on "The gloom in the MBC survey," is unfair not only to "Makati big businesses," whom he accused of being "afflicted with the protectionist syndrome," but also to truth.

It is totally wrong to suspect the Makati Business Club of seeking government protection. The MBC is globalization's mouthpiece here. It is blaming the prevailing "economic gloom" on the Abu Sayyaf and Metro Manila kidnap gangs precisely to divert attention from the real culprit: globalization. The MBC is perfectly willing to cooperate with transnational capital at the expense of the national economy. What is basically wrong with our economy—the destruction of manufacturing and agricultural production for the domestic market and our current unprecedented reliance on imports—is globalization's handiwork, not the Abu Sayyaf's or the kidnap gangs'. Globalization is at the root of the dismal statistics on the exchange rate, unemployment, hunger and peace and order.

Doronila mentions "protectionism of the 1960s." He must have read the wrong history books. Under President Diosdado Macapagal, the 1960s witnessed the dismantling of import and exchange controls at the instance of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. In 1962, Macapagal instituted decontrol and devaluation, killing almost overnight the import-substituting industries built during the Quirino, Magsaysay and Garcia administrations, the very same industries which earlier made our economy the second most modern in post-colonial Asia, next only to Japan's.

"If they (Filipino businesses) can't be competitive," says Doronila, "why stay in business?" This was the policy of the Ramos administration under whose all-out import liberalization policy our national economy—manufacturing and agriculture for the domestic market—was practically wiped out. This policy ruined even established multinational corporations like Colgate-Palmolive, Union Carbide, Pfizer, etc.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301, Union Square Condominium 145 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City**

Motorcyclists may use tollways soon

A FEW days ago, a high-ranking official of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) during an interview over Radio Mindanao Network, stated that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) are drafting the rules and regulations that will govern motorcycle use of the tollways. The question arises: Will the proposed rules and regulations be binding on the motorcyclists?

It will be recalled that recently Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Teofilo L. Guadiz Jr., issued an order for the delegation of power by the DPWH which revised the ban on motorcycles as unconstitutional, hence, null and void. This leaves DPWH Administration Order No. 1, Series of 1968, in full force and effect.

This order is being enforced at present by the PNCC since it was not included as respondent in the Makati case. The PNCC, therefore, still has the power and authority to implement DPWH Administrative Order No. 1, series of 1968.

There is also a case in the sala of Judge Francisco D. Paño of the Regional Trial Court in San Pedro, Laguna, assailing DPWH Administrative Order No. 1 as unconstitutional because of the undue delegation of power and in light of the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of City of Butuan vs. Land Transportation Office on Jan. 20, 2000. Hopefully, should the awaited decision be in substantial agreement with the Butuan vs. LTO decision, motorcyclists who have been unduly denied the right to use the tollways for over 33 years will finally heave a sigh of relief.—**BENJAMIN S. MANAS, chair, Southern Luzon Motorcyclists Association Inc., 218 Maligaya St., San Pedro, Laguna**

Canadian envoy backs Mindoro nickel project

I REFER to an article published in the INQUIRER on June 28 ("New Gov vows 25-yr mining ban") in which a number of statements about the mining industry in general, and about Aglubang Mining Corp.'s proposed Mindoro nickel project in particular, were inaccurately attributed to me.

Canada is among the foremost producers of minerals and metals in the world, and its leading exporter. The mining industry plays an essential role in Canada's economy. It is the economic foundation for some 150 communities in Canada's rural and northern regions, and provides jobs for hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

Given its own rich endowment of mineral resources, the Philippines could enjoy the benefits of a thriving, environmentally responsible mining industry. The passage of the 1995 Mining Act laid the groundwork for this to happen, and led an increase in exploration activity on the part of foreign mining companies, including a number from Canada. These companies bring with them their expertise, their best practices and their ability to raise financing required to build such an industry, capable of delivering benefits to all stakeholders.

In the case of Aglubang Mining Corp., which is partly owned by the Crew Development Corp. of Canada, the company's project in Mindoro has the potential to deliver substantial benefits to local communities, including indigenous peoples, as well as to the national government and to local and foreign investors. The company was granted a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement in November 2000, and since then it has been trying to complete the preparatory work prior to seeking an Environmental Clearance Certificate.

Until this process is completed, it would be premature to comment on the potential environmental impact of the project. However, I will note that not only is the government of Canada a strong advocate of environmentally friendly and socially responsible mineral development but that Canada's mining industry is a world leader in environmentally safe and sustainable mining practices both in Canada and internationally. Contrary to what I was reported to have said in your June 28 article, therefore, I have no doubt that Aglubang and Crew will be able to address any environmental and social concerns raised during further development of this project.

I am therefore hopeful that Aglubang, and all concerned parties will have the opportunity to explore fully this promising mining development project.—**ROBERT COLLETTE, ambassador, Canadian Embassy, 8/F Allied Bank Centre, 6754 Ayala Ave., Makati City**

Controlling thieves at ports, airports

ARRIVING from Butuan City recently, I took a taxi at the Centennial Airport and was given a Passenger Information Form (PIF). The taxicab's company and plate number were written by the airport police. The PIF form contained the following note to the passenger: "Please report any complaints of contracting, overcharging and/or discourtesy to the Traffic Enforcement and Investigation Division, Airport Police Department to the following telephone numbers: 833-3181/8771-3939 or you may approach a Police Officer of the APD for immediate assistance."

What got my attention was a small note: "Pay only the amount indicated on the meter."

What a change and what a relief! When the driver of Walus Taxicab PXF 713 started hinting that I should pay an additional P50, I reminded him of what was written on the card.

Kudos to the Manila International Airport Authority! It is high time travelers are protected against unscrupulous and dishonest taxi drivers who victimize unwary passengers.

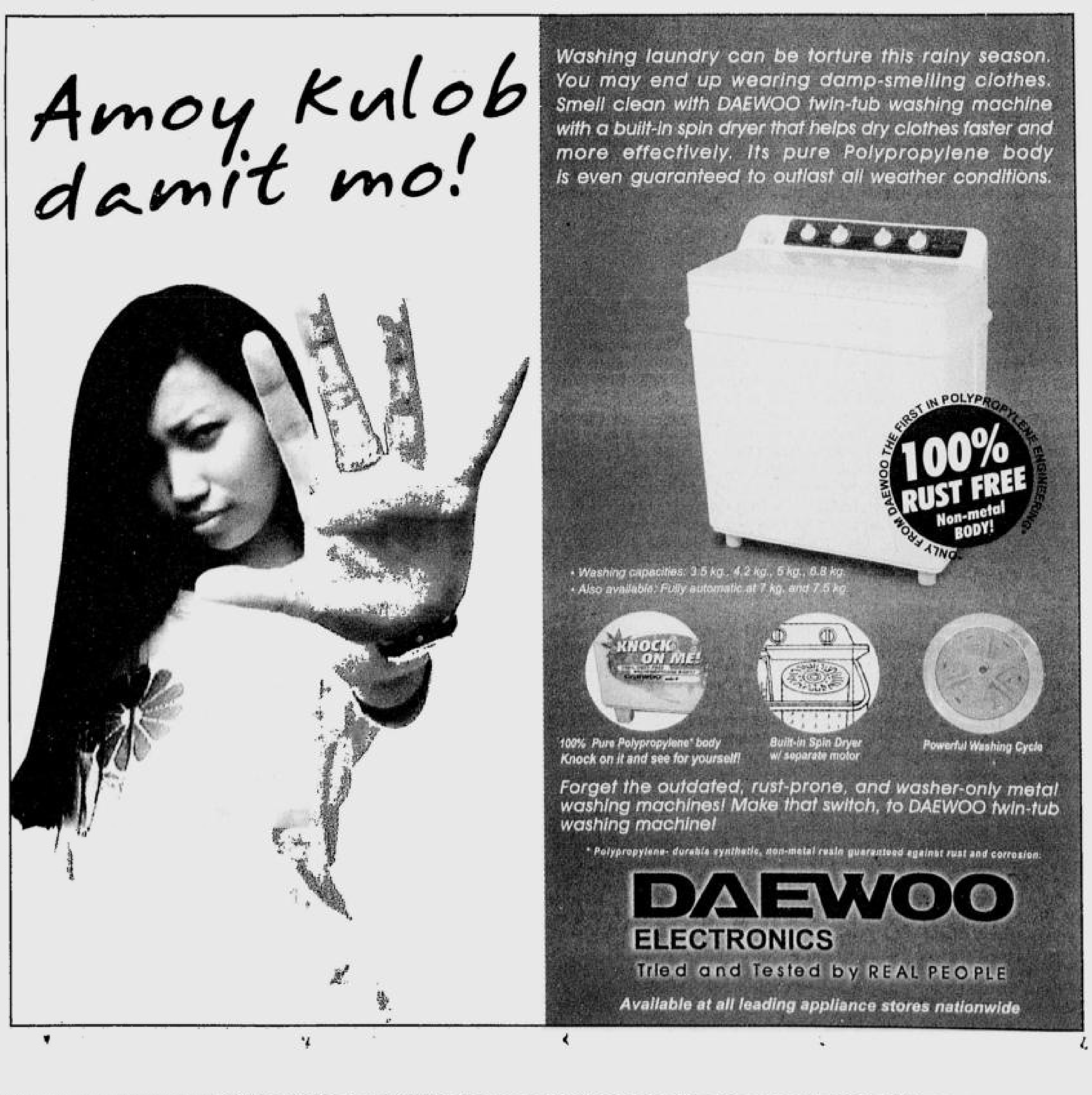
I can only pray that the same honest-to-goodness police concern will be applied in our wharves where there is wanton disregard of common courtesy, decency and honesty. Somebody must be getting rich from allowing taxicabs at the North Harbor bleed travelers dry.

I pray also that one day, for the public good, some brave soul will expose the shenanigans in the North Harbor and put an end to the institutionalized corrupt practices in that den of thieves and thugs.—**SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Malls not for infants

WE should have a law banning infants from the malls. This will protect them from noise and air pollution, which unduly disrupt much needed sleep.

Infants are cute and safe when kept at home or in the nursery. We think they are being abused when their parents take them malling.—**T.B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, Quezon City**



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Protestant work ethic spells progress

AFTER 100 years as a nation, we are still at a standstill. We remain undeveloped, our economy is in the doldrums, the peso's value is sinking and corruption goes on unabated. Regardless of who sits in Malacañang, our situation stays the same, if it is not worsening. The basic realities of a century ago continue to bedevil us today.

I wonder if Max Weber was right after all. In his book, "Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism," he concluded that religion is a crucial factor in the development or non-development of a nation. According to him, certain Protestant values such as thrift, discipline, honesty and hard work promote economic efficiency and advance businesses. And this is true of nations, families and individuals.

Evidence of the correctness of his theory appears incontrovertible. In Europe, countries with a long Protestant tradition definitely are more developed. England, Germany, Switzerland and Holland, to name a few, are more prosperous than those that are steeped in the Catholic religion such as Italy, Portugal, Spain, or even France. In the Americas, the United States, peopled by the Protestant pilgrims, is way, way ahead of its neighbors in South America which were colonized by Catholic Spain.

What does this say of our plight as a predominantly Catholic nation? Unless we work very hard, practice thrift, develop discipline and live honestly and simply, we will remain fossilized till doomsday.—**DAVID V. FELICIANO, Adlas, Silang, Cavite**

Sona a letdown for seamen

THE STATE of the Nation Address of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was a big letdown for the 600,000 or so Filipinos who work as seamen all over the world.

Why? Because, they were not mentioned in the Sona and they were in fact insulted when the President said that the IT sector (not the maritime sector) gives the Philippines a "competitive edge."

For years now, the country has been the biggest source of seafarers for overseas ships. They remit some $2.5 billion annually. This is an open secret and I wonder why the President's men ignored this fact.

In the face of this slight, therefore, I am constrained to remind President Macapagal about an earlier commitment she has forgotten.

When she was still running for vice president, Ms Macapagal signed with the maritime sector a covenant that she will move for the creation of a Department of Maritime Affairs (DMA). It was signed before a group of maritime people headed by Capt. Benjamin Tañedo and Fil Salonga.

If she has proposed the creation of a Department of Housing and a Department of Information and Communications, what about the creation of a Department of Maritime Affairs?

While the best argument for the first two departments is the need for housing and the expansion of information technology today, the need for a Department of Maritime Affairs is just as vital and a matter of justice. There is a need to keep our competitive advantage and train our people to meet the demands of the globalization of trade.

We implore the President's help for the quick passage of a bill seeking the establishment of the Department of Maritime Affair.—**LEO J. SANTIAGO, Maritime Party, Rm. 303, YIC Bldg., UN Ave. cor. San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila**

Pols take stock after Wahid crisis

PRESIDENT Megawati Sukarnoputri (left) and Vice President Hamzah Haz wave to journalists after Haz's swearing-in ceremony at parliament in Jakarta July 26. AP

JAKARTA—After months of political turmoil that led to a new national leadership, Indonesian politicians yesterday stopped to take stock before tackling their next task, the formation of a new Cabinet.

Megawati Sukarnoputri, who was appointed the country's fifth president to replace sacked Muslim cleric Abdurrahman Wahid on Monday, yesterday made her first working trip as head of state to the regions.

Her first stop was Bandung, some 200 kms southeast of here, where she attended a graduation ceremony at the academy of government administration officials.

The move was seen as politically savvy as the academy produces many of the future regional leaders, who are gaining in power as Indonesia leans toward decentralization.

Megawati later flew to the Central Sulawesi capital of Palu to inaugurate a body coordinating the development of eastern Indonesia. She is due to fly to the South Sulawesi capital of Makassar later in the evening.

Sulawesi has been the scene of bloody clashes between armed members of the Muslim and Christian communities since April 2000.

The violence peaked in May and June 2000 and has been sporadic since then, claiming more than 300 lives.

Megawati will return to Jakarta on Saturday.

Newly elected Vice President Hamzah Haz also had a packed day yesterday, mostly with personal duties.

He received a steady stream of wellwishers at his private residence in East Jakarta, including Wahid's top economic minister Bacharuddin Abdullah and several executives of his United Development Party (PPP).

Later Friday, Haz and his family were expected to move into the temporary vice presidential residence in South Jakarta. The official residence in the upmarket residential quarter of Menteng in Central Jakarta is currently under renovation.

During yesterday's prayers Haz urged Indonesians not to expect too much from his vice presidency so as to avoid disappointment in the future.

"What is more important is your prayers, and hopefully, I will be able to perform my duties," he said according to the Kompas online.

Meanwhile, Megawati's aide were preparing to draft several alternatives for a Cabinet lineup, said Sucipto, the head of the national assembly faction of Megawati's Indonesian Democracy Party for Struggle (PDIP).

The lineup would be finalized "after Tuesday and Mrs. Mega herself will draw up the (final) list, assisted by one or two people, including myself," Sucipto said. *AFP*

Sharon faces possible war crimes charges

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon began buckling down Thursday for potential war crimes charges in Belgium, where a magistrate has been asked to prepare a possible case against him over 1982 massacres in Lebanon.

Sharon had already made the decision to hire a Belgian defense lawyer in case the Belgian trial went forward on the advice of attorney general Elyakim Rubinstein, Israeli army radio reported.

The 73-year-old leader, who had so far shrugged off the possibility of being brought to book for his alleged role as defense minister during the massacres, later called the case a veiled attack against Israel.

"It's not a personal question. By attacking me personally they are looking to attack Israel and the Jewish people, but we will stop it " Sharon told reporters.

The head of Sharon's office, Uri Shani, was meeting Thursday with jurists and top officials to work out a strategy to handle the potential Belgian case, according to Israeli public television.

In Belgium, lawyer Michael Verhaeghe, acting for a Palestinian woman who escaped the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said his client had been interviewed by examining magistrate Patrick Collignon.

Sharon is potentially facing two lawsuits over the massacre of between 800 and 1,500 Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps following Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, when he was defense minister.

The first suit, charging him with responsibility for the deaths, was lodged by an ad hoc group of Palestinian, Lebanese, Moroccan and Belgian nationals.

A second suit alleging crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes was filed by 23 survivors of the massacres as well as five eyewitnesses.

The slaughter was carried out by Christian militiamen at the camps, located in an area which at the time was controlled by the Israeli military.

Sharon was forced to resign as defense minister after an Israeli investigation in 1983 found him indirectly but "personally" responsible for the deaths. *AFP*

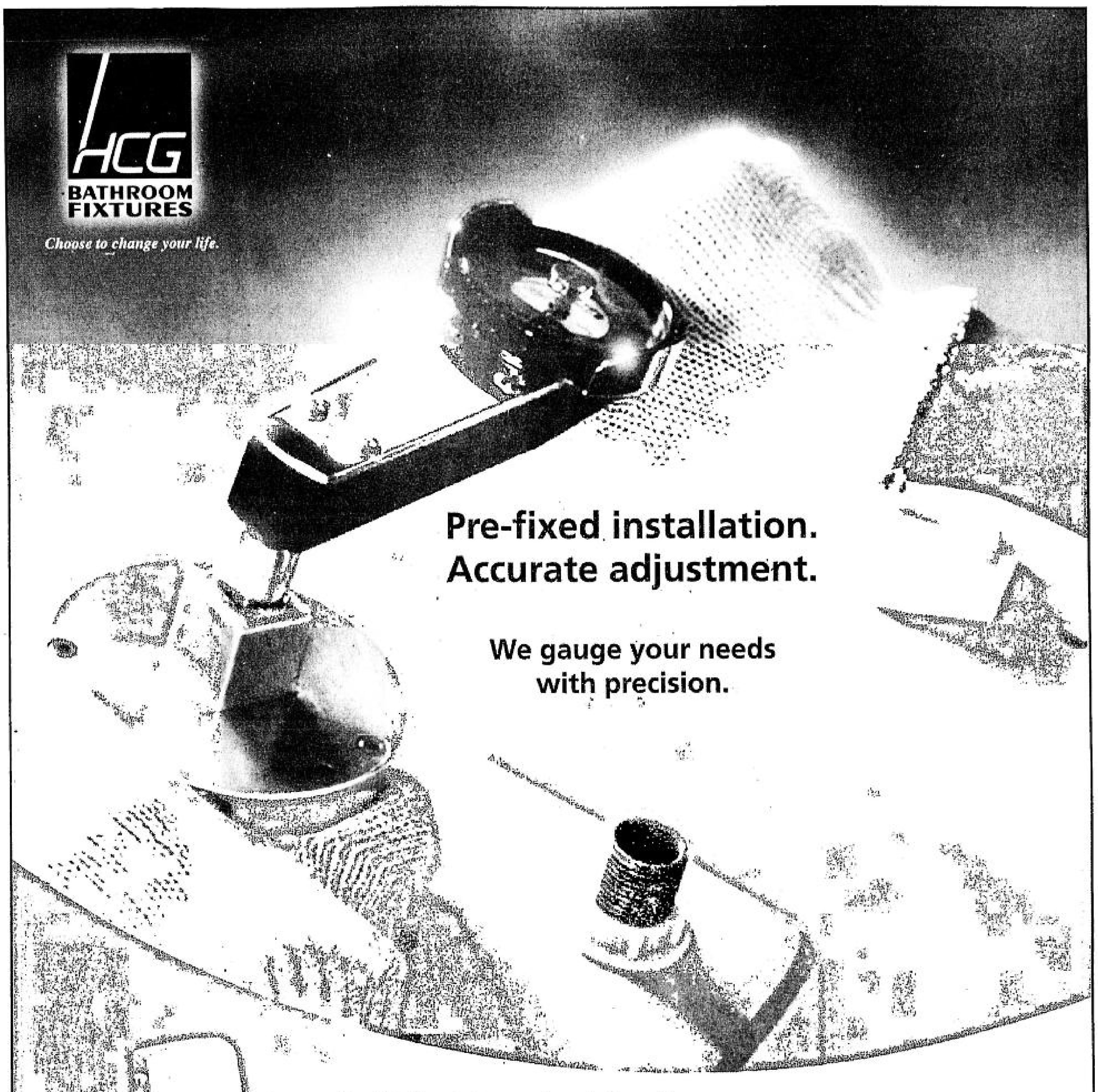
US not seeking new climate pact–Whitman

WASHINGTON—The United States is unlikely to offer a substantive alternative environmental plan when negotiators meet later this year in Morocco, and will instead focus on hemispheric and domestic measures, said the US government's top environmental official.

"Basically, we're going to continue to do our own thing here," Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman said in an interview with the Washington Post published yesterday.

Whitman was also skeptical that the agreement struck by some 180 countries in Bonn Monday without the United States on the UN's Kyoto Protocol on climate change would be effective.

The administration of US President George W. Bush, she said, would continue to pursue an alternative approach that stresses research, marketing-based solutions and technology transfers to developing countries with serious pollution problems. *AFP*



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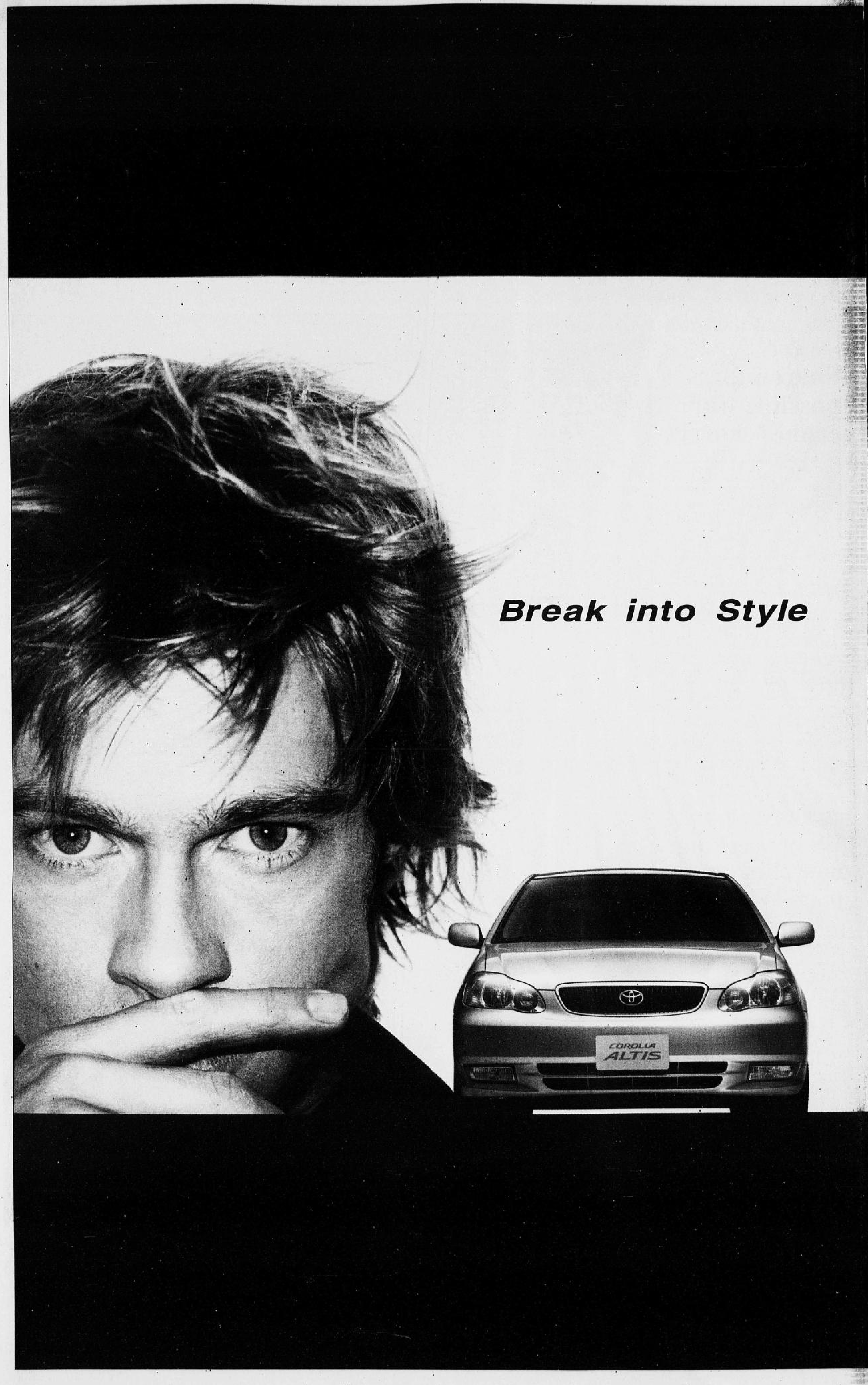
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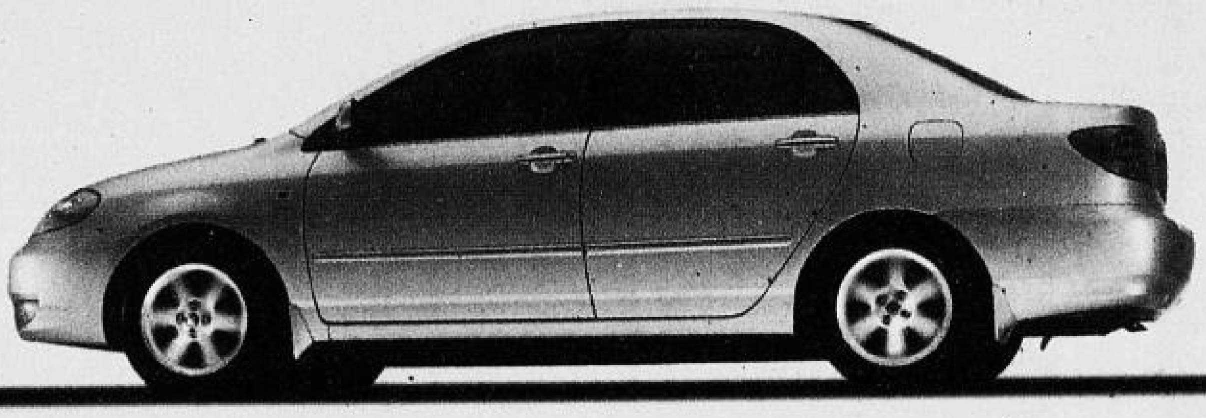

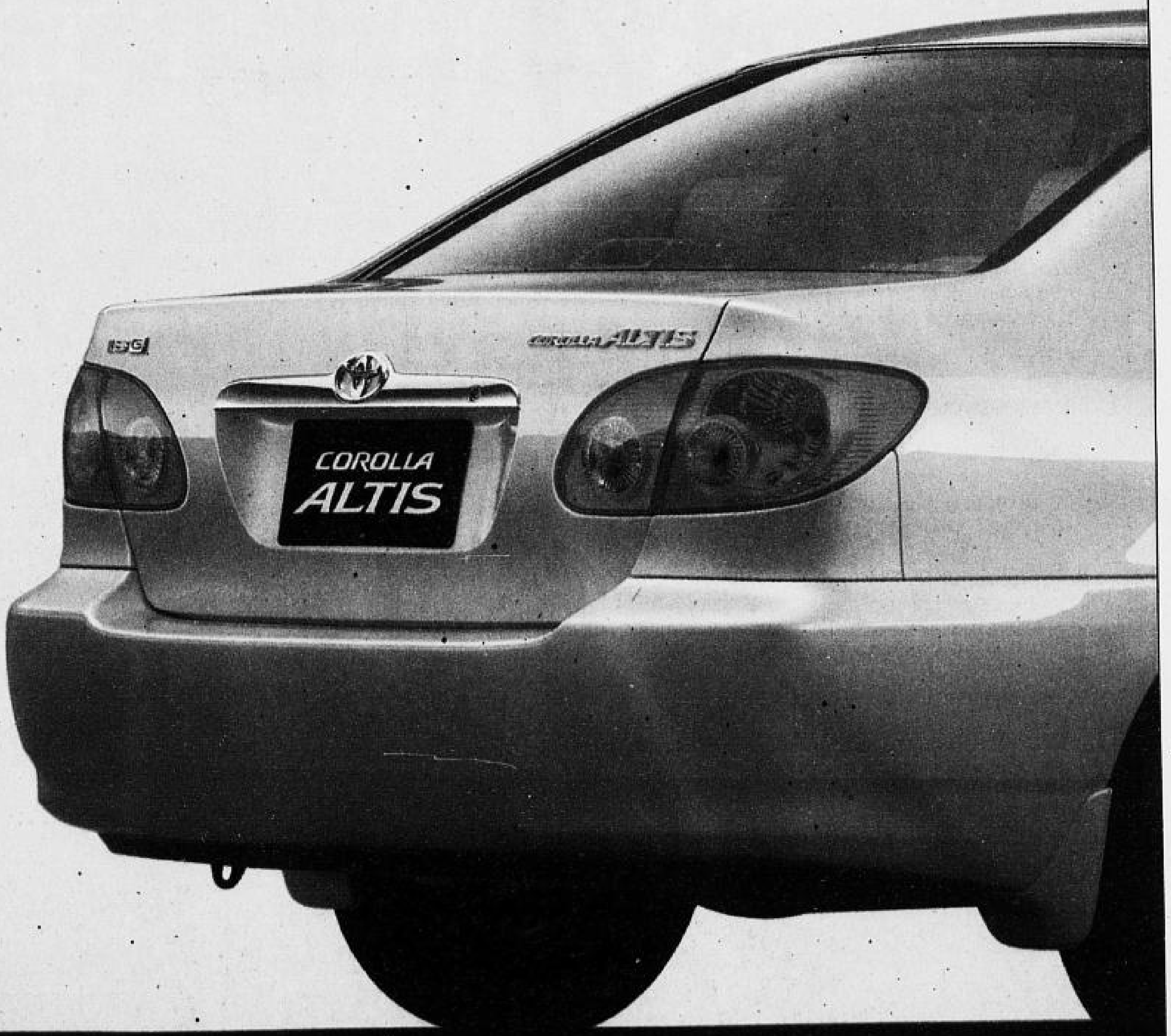

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AMID JAPANESE TEXTBOOK FUROR

History taught to S. Korea's own kids focus of new debate

SEOUL—It is one of South Korea's most traumatic World War II memories—sexual enslavement of women by Japanese soldiers—and South Koreans are furious that Japanese textbooks still ignore the hateful details of Japan's colonial rule over Korea.

But now a debate is emerging about the history taught in South Korea's own schools. Middle and high school history textbooks include only one sentence on the tragedy of Korean women. Nor do the books explore Koreans' forced—and sometimes willing—collaboration with Japanese overlords.

"Our own textbooks are not teaching enough about Japan's colonial rule," Gender Equality Minister Han Myung-sook said last week.

Until now, the furor over Japanese textbooks has focused largely on the absence of any reference to the tens of thousands of Korean and other "comfort women" who were forced to work in frontline brothels for Japan's army.

Yet the history textbook published by Seoul's Education Ministry makes no direct reference to "sex slaves." It says only: "Korean women were taken and sacrificed as comfort women for Japanese soldiers." There is no further explanation.

The Gender Equality Ministry wants the government to revise the textbook titled "Kook-Sa," or "National History," to state that the comfort women were taken "by force or fraud" and suffered "sexual abuse."

It also demands the textbooks carry excerpts of the sex slaves' testimony and their wartime photos.

The Education Ministry, which prepares textbooks, is reviewing the proposals.

Authors of the current textbooks appeared to avoid the issue because it was so shameful for Koreans, and they were also concerned about its sexual content, said Lee Ki-soon, a ministry official.

There are also demands to include textbook references to the many Koreans who worked for the Japanese government and security forces during the 1910-45 colonial rule. Some collaborators eulogized colonial rule and helped hunt down pro-independence activists.

Now liberal lawmakers have demanded that South Korean textbooks mention well-known Korean collaborators. At the time, most South Korean experts in government affairs had worked for the colonial rulers. *AP*

Drug users turn to new high: Embalming fluid

PHILADELPHIA—Embalming fluid is becoming an increasingly popular drug for users looking for a new and different high—one that often comes with violent and psychotic side effects.

Users—mainly teenagers and people in their 20s—are buying tobacco or marijuana cigarettes that have been soaked in the fluid, then dried. They cost about $20 apiece and are called by nearly a dozen names across America, including "wet," "fry" and "illy."

"The idea of embalming fluid appeals to people's morbid curiosity about death," said Dr. Julie Holland of New York University School of Medicine. "There's a certain gothic appeal to it."

Formaldehyde can be bought in drug stores and beauty supply stores. (It is an ingredient in nail care products). It is also available in many school science labs. In addition, there have been reports of embalming fluid thefts from funeral homes in Louisiana and New York.

Although there are no national statistics on usage, many drug experts say it appears to have spread from the inner cities to well-to-do suburban neighborhoods and college campuses.

"Whether they live in a million-dollar house or a $5,000 house, kids who are smoking pot or crack and are looking for a different type of high are turning to wet," said Julie Kirlin, a juvenile probation officer in Reading, about 80 kms from Philadelphia.

Embalming fluid is a compound of formaldehyde, methanol, ethanol and other solvents. The high depends on what the user is really getting: Often the drug PCP is mixed in. In fact, PCP has gone by the street name "embalming fluid" since the 1970s. *AP*

'Missile threat' from N. Korea unfounded–Kim

KIM JONG-IL

TOKYO—North Korean leader Kim Jong-il insisted the Stalinist state's missile development program was "purely peaceful" and should not justify Washington's missile defense shield plans, in an interview released yesterday.

"Our missile program is of purely peaceful nature. It threatens nobody. Implementing the peaceful missile program is an exercise of our legitimate sovereign right," Kim said in a rare interview, conducted by Russia's Itar-Tass news agency and released by Pyongyang's KCNA news agency, monitored in Tokyo.

"The world knows that we are not threatening the United States, but that the United States is constantly threatening us by occupying a half of our country by force of arms," Kim was quoted saying in the interview held Tuesday in Pyongyang.

"The United States' clamor about the 'missile threat' from our country is totally unfounded. It is nothing but a lie to hide its intention to dominate other countries," the North Korean leader said.

The Stalinist state's official mouthpiece released the full text of the interview after the North Korean leader started a landmark journey to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Kim claimed the Pyongyang regime's own missile program was being unfairly used by Washington to justify its National Missile Defense plan for which the United States was trying to alter the anti-ballistic missile treaty it concluded with Russia.

"We support the Russian standpoint for maintaining strategic stability through the ABM treaty," Kim said.

The NMD, which has elicited a cautious response from even Washington's closest allies, is intended to counter the threat from what the US administration regard as "rogue" states including North Korea.

Any prospect on the Stalinist state normalizing relations with the United States or Japan depended on the standpoints of Washington and Tokyo, Kim said, adding that the Bush administration had in vain revived a hardline policy of isolation toward Pyongyang.

"Our invariable standpoint is to approach goodwill with goodwill and respond to a hardline with a super hardline," Kim said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

M'donia peace bid resumes

SKOPJE—Macedonia edged back from the brink of all-out civil war on Thursday, as the Skopje government announced it was to resume talks with ethnic Albanian leaders after Albanian guerrillas retreated from key positions. President Boris Trajkovski, speaking after a crisis mission by Nato and European Union peace envoys, said the talks would take place in Tetovo, the flashpoint town, which has been the scene of intense fighting this week between government forces and guerrillas. Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski said the talks resumed yesterday. Western envoys said the peace process was now back on track, after the fighting in Tetovo left a July 5 ceasefire in shreds and anti-western riots in the capital Skopje fuelled fears that the powderkeg Balkans region was on the brink of another war. *AFP*

G8 violence probe rejected

ROME—The Italian government refused Thursday to carry out a probe into alleged police brutality during last week's anti-G8 rallies, despite opposition demands that an inquest be opened. The lower house of parliament's committee for constitutional affairs, dominated by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's conservative coalition, turned down an opposition request for a parliamentary investigation into the violence that left one protestor dead and saw scores arrested. Judicial investigations over the three days of violence are already under way. Leftwing senators argued that with hundreds of foreigners wounded setting up an international fact-finding panel on the riots was not merely an issue of internal politics. *AFP*

EU slams Burma

HANOI—The European Union will not lift sanctions against Burma until it makes much more progress in its dialogue with the political opposition, EU officials yesterday said. The EU commissioner for external affairs, Chris Patten, said that while some progress has taken place recently, he hoped the dialogue "is not only irreversible but . . . a lot more rapid." "Until there is significant progress on the political front . . . the common position of the EU will stay the same," he told reporters. Top EU officials met Burmese Foreign Minister Win Aung during a conference in Hanoi this week of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its key allies. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Eastern Luzon will have stormy weather and coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will experience monsoon rains while Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains	Hi 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Hi 28° Lo 21°
Laoag	Stormy	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Roxas	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/28/01

No free houses, says GMA

MEXICO, Pampanga—Two days after she vowed in her State of the Nation Address to uplift the plight of poor Filipinos, President Macapagal-Arroyo stirred disappointment among Mount Pinatubo victims.

At the Pandacaqui resettlement site here on Wednesday, the President laid down two options in the use and ownership of houses by some 45,000 families in 24 relocation sites built by the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission since 1992.

Under the usufruct scheme that she revised, the victims would not have to pay a single centavo and they could never be ejected, she assured.

The policy drew wild applause from 1,000 residents gathered for the program where she distributed titles to some settlers who can pay for the units in the site now managed by the National Housing Authority.

The NHA took over the tasks of the MPC when its term ended last December.

The original usufruct scheme, implemented by the MPC since 1998, was strongly opposed because it required the victims to pay a minimum of P200 a month for 25 years but without the guarantee of owning the houses and the lots.

The MPC spent P6 billion for the resettlement programs although the law creating the agency did not state if the victims would have to pay the cost to the beneficiaries.

Ms Macapagal, then a senator, was one of the principal sponsors of the MPC law.

But the excitement of the residents died down when the President said that under this scheme, they could never own the house, a condition laid down under the previous scheme.

"Now if you want to own the house, you can start paying in installments," she stressed, speaking in Kapampangan, the language in her home province in Pampanga. She did not mention the cost of acquiring the houses or the lots.

But she emphasized seconds later: "If you don't want to pay, you can't acquire titles (to the house or lot). Usufruct only. You can reside in these but you cannot own these."

Her repeated queries on whether these options were acceptable drew silent reactions.

But when she asked how many did not want to pay for their houses, several residents immediately answered by raising their hands.

Explaining her new policy especially on rent-free usufruct, the President said this was needed because there were non-victims who managed to get houses in government resettlement sites.

Controversies surrounding the distribution of houses to illegal settlers were never resolved before and after the MPC's exit period.

"Perhaps, there is a sense of justice in this decision. Okay? Will this work?" she asked, prodding her audience to reply.

No answers came her way. Many in the audience were dumbfounded.

"We are sad. How can we pay? We barely make enough for our food," Demetria Pineda, 70, of Bacolor, told reporters later.

Imelda Banag said: "If she was really intending to help the poor, as she said, during the Sona, I hope she could award to us the land and the home for free. We're poor, we cannot pay."

Bart Sangil of Porac said Pinatubo victims should not be made to pay because the government used donated funds for the construction of the houses.

"We are victims. The eruption and the lahar flows displaced us. It was not of our liking we were rendered homeless," said Santiago Yumul.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

ROUNDUP

Business meet set

COTABATO CITY—The private sector and the government here have committed to help each other to make the city attractive in time for the 10th Mindanao Business Conference which will be attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo next month. Antonio Santos, regional governor of the Metro Cotabato Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said a memorandum of agreement was signed by representatives of the government and the business sector outlining the tasks to make the conference site attractive. The Department of Public Works and Highways is repairing the road from the Maguindanao airport to this city. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Shellfish gathering banned

MATI, Davao Oriental—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has banned shellfish gathering from the Balite Bay here due to red tide contamination. Alfeo Piloton, agriculture and fisheries chief, said red tide toxins in the Balite Bay have already reached 156 micrograms per 100 grams of shellfish meat, which is far beyond the tolerable level of 40 micrograms per 100 grams of meat. Piloton said the contamination is due to quarrying by the Davao Union Cement Corp. in Barangay Dawan.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Arbitrary arrests hit

MATI, Davao Oriental—Farmers in Barangay Sanghay denounced arbitrary arrests allegedly perpetrated by the Army's 8th Special Forces in their area. Robinson Diolan, chair of the Calasagan United Farmers' Association, said soldiers have terrorized residents threatening to harm them because of their alleged ties with the New People's Army. Maj. Alexis Gopico, commander of the 8th Special Forces Battalion, vowed to investigate the farmers' allegations that his men were involved in atrocities against civilians.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fisheries anniversary

THE BINANGONAN Freshwater Station of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Aquaculture Department (Seafdec/AQD) celebrated its 25th anniversary yesterday. New publications were launched, among them, the second edition of a manual on *tilapia* culture, which teaches fishermen, students, extension workers, and fishery instructors how to grow *tilapia* in cages, pens and ponds. Also launched was a new manual on big head carp-raising which tackles the propagation of big head carp using hormones, hatchery design and seed production. Copies are available at the Seafdec/AQD offices.

21 unions form alliance

BACOLOD CITY—An alliance against the privatization of the Social Security System was formed yesterday by 21 labor unions in various establishments in Negros Occidental. Roy Cordova, provincial chairman of the Partido ng Manggagawa-Negros and a convenor of the alliance, said they would ask other SSS employees to oppose the privatization moves. He said privatization will practically place the entire SSS funds in the hands of private owners who "can use it according to their whims and caprices," to the detriment of private sector workers who own the fund. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Silliman salary hikes

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Silliman University Faculty Association last week accepted the offer of the university for salary increases and benefits, paving the way for a more meaningful celebration of the SU's centennial this August. All academic personnel will receive an across-the-board increase in basic monthly salary retroactive June 1. Instructors will get P800; assistant professors, P850; associate professors, P900 and professors, P1,000. The salary adjustments for the next two years were P700 for instructors; assistant professors, P750; associate professors, P800 and professors, P850. A one-time cash gift of P5,000 will also be given as a Centennial Bonus to all full-time academic personnel who have served for at least a year and P1,000 for those who have served for less than a year. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Brothers get life terms

BACOLOD CITY—Two brothers were sentenced to life imprisonment by the Regional Trial Court here for the 1993 slaying of a village councilor in Hinigaran, Negros Occidental. Brothers Ronnie and Paterno Ditchosa were found guilty of shooting and stabbing to death Alfredo Gonzales on Jan. 21, 1993. The brothers killed Gonzales following a heated altercation during a drinking and gambling session. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Tañada heads foundation

LUCENA CITY—Former Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada has been elected president of the Agrarian Justice Foundation Inc. (AJFI), taking over from former Supreme Court Justice Abraham Sarmiento who guided the foundation during its formative period. The AJFI started last year as the DAR Agrarian Justice Fund put up as a legal defense fund for agrarian reform beneficiaries and implementers unjustly charged in court and imprisoned for implementing the agrarian reform program. The DAR-initiated fund was transformed into a private foundation to avoid conflict-of-interest issues. The AJFI was subsequently registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-stock, non-profit corporation.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Cops hunting gunmen who bombed cell site

LEGAZPI CITY—Police are tracking down the suspects in the bombing Tuesday of a Smart cell site tower in Barangay Cabangbang, Daet, Camarines Norte.

Supt. Jaime Milla, Camarines Norte provincial police director, said seven unidentified men armed with high-powered firearms detonated a still unknown type of bomb around 6:15 p.m.

Police recovered two penlight batteries and an electrical cord believed to have been used in the bombing.

The perpetrators, on board a commandeered Tamaraw FX vehicle, with plate No. EVB-999, disarmed Gary Bongat, the security guard on duty and brought him with them when they fled.

Bongat was released unharmed with his service firearm, Milla said.

The suspects abandoned their getaway car in Barangay Magang in Daet town.

Milla said the suspects took a car owned by a certain Bong Martinez from driver Cesar Herico, who was still missing as of Thursday.

Police said communist guerrillas could be behind the bombing. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Lahar river quarrying banned

BACOLOR, Pampanga—The Department of Public Works and Highways in Central Luzon has banned quarrying along the Pasig-Potrero River to avoid damaging the P2.7-billion FVR Megadike, the province's main defense against Mt. Pinatubo's lahar.

DPWH Regional Director Alfredo Tolentino prohibited the extraction of sand from the lahar-choked river beginning from the spillway of the Cabetican Bridge to where the Pasig-Potrero and San Fernando rivers meet—all spanning 15 kilometers. The river drains from Mt. Pinatubo, 25 kilometers west of Bacolor.

In a letter to Mayor Romeo Dungca last July 24, Tolentino said the ban aims to "protect the megadike and flood/lahar structures against (the) damaging effects" of quarrying.

Dungca said indiscriminate excavations and quarrying have caused lahar flow to meander and veer toward the dikes, eroding and damaging the structures.

The suspension will last until October when the rainy season ends.

But Tolentino clarified that what he banned were only desilting activities or the extraction of sand along the river channels.

The DPWH allows this commercial activity to drain the water away from the foot of the dikes, he said.

The Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, collects P150 in taxes from every truck hauling sand from the river's middle portions.

The NRDC levies a tax of P300 per truck for regular quarrying or if sand was obtained from areas away from the rivers, for instance, lahar-laden farms outside the megadike.

However, distinguishing between desilting and regular quarrying or regulating desilting activities along the river has always been a perennial problem for government engineers.

Dungca found out permit holders often go beyond their designated areas, scooping sand out of farms or even from the old Sta. Barbara Dike.

Last Friday, he suspended both schemes, citing not only the damages that unabated and indiscriminate quarrying wrought on the Sta. Barbara Dike.

According to Dungca, the municipal government also lost nearly P300,000 in revenue from 1,300 trucks that skirted paying taxes between July 3 and 14.

Quarry operators, some with spurious permits, also enroached on private lands planned for agricultural rehabilitation, he said.

Floriano Rivera, NRDC lahar project manager, said the DENR and its Mines and Geosciences Bureau are studying the merits of Dungca's quarry suspension order.

However, Dungca has already enforced the order, requiring operators in the town to show proof of their permits and undergo a validation of the designated sites.

"Unless that is done, we cannot weed out irresponsible, illegal operators who, out of the drive for profit, cause destruction to the town and risks to our residents," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Vets warn of pigs that 'dance': They may have FMD virus

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—If you haven't seen a pig dancing, better be wary when you do see one. Experts say a pig that dances could be exhibiting signs of the dreaded Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD).

"A pig looks like it is dancing the cha-cha if it has FMD because its feet are painful. The moment the pig puts its feet down, it hurts so he has to pull it up again," said Dr. Pablo Balite, provincial quarantine officer of Negros Oriental.

Balite, speaking at a Kapihan forum on FMD on Thursday, said among the danger signs to watch for is when a pig gets lesions in its feet and tongue, which make either standing or eating very painful.

The FMD affects not only pigs but also cattle and other cloven-footed animals.

Representatives of the national FMD Task Force who addressed the same forum said they were preparing to launch its campaign in October to rid the entire Visayas of the FMD virus and declare the Visayas as an FMD-free area to the rest of the world.

Among the primary targets of this information program are backyard hog growers, hog and cattle buyers, meat inspectors and meat vendors.

Dr. Alice Utlang of the regional FMD task force said they are strictly enforcing the ban on meat products from FMD-infected areas. They said they would appeal to the animal growers to avoid raising, buying or passing off contaminated meat so that the FMD virus would not have any chance of spreading.

The FMD virus is easily spread through the soles of the footwear of a person who has been to an FMD-stricken area. A person who ingests FMD-infested meat also spreads the disease through his urine, especially if he urinates in open areas.

The aim of the FMD task force, Utlang said, is to declare the Visayas free from FMD without having to resort to vaccination.

An area may be declared FMD-free if it has not had a single reported incident of FMD in two years. The last recorded FMD incident in the Visayas was in Iloilo in October 1999.

Balite said the FMD is a political and economic disease, which could test the political will of public officials.

"If an area is found to have animals infected with the FMD virus, we have no choice but to kill and burn all other animals in the area which may be stricken with the same virus, even if the owner of those animals are mayors, lawyers or other influential and powerful people," Balite said.

Once the FMD virus hits a village, the effects are similar to being hit by a typhoon because all hogs and cattle would have to be killed and burned, he said.

The FMD virus was first reported in the Philippines in 1902. It is thought to have come from China.

In almost 100 years of an off-and-on presence in the Philippines, only Mindanao has been spared from the FMD virus.

Balite explained that this is because the inspectors are strictly enforcing quarantine laws in Mindanao.

"If a captain of a vessel is found tolerating the shipment of FMD-infected animals, the captain could lose his license," he said.

Customs execs agree to probe smuggling

LEGAZPI CITY—The Bureau of Customs in Bicol has heeded the request of the Tabaco City Police Office to look deeper into the alleged smuggling of rice into the Tabaco international seaport as about P189.5 million worth of rice were unloaded in the port in seven separate incidents.

Customs Bicol District collector Marcial Lopez started hearings on the latest smuggling case at his office here on Wednesday.

Lopez clarified that the hearing was a proceeding against the cargo and not a criminal one.

Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin, Tabaco City police chief, who apprehended the trucks of rice outside the port, stood as prosecution witness.

Berdin testified that he was compelled to apprehend the trucks of rice on orders of city Mayor Alex Burce, after they became suspicious of the time and manner of the unloading of the commodity as had happened in previous cases.

The police chief said in the first to sixth shipments, the vessels docked at the port at night and left early morning before their cargo could be inspected and cleared for release by customs and coast guard officials.

Berdin said he has evidence that would substantiate his accusations that the rice shipment was illegal.

The cargo ship was supposed to unload 13,500 bags of rice but unloaded only 9,100 bags and immediately left when the vessel's crew noticed a commotion at the port.

The rice shipment was allegedly consigned to a Ricardo Corral of Sorsogon, Sorsogon.

Corral, who did not attend Wednesday's hearing, had earlier denied he was the consignee of the commodity, claiming that his name was just used.

He challenged police to investigate the case and look for the real owner of the alleged smuggled rice.

The customs bureau has issued a warrant of seizure and detention for the 16 trucks of rice unloaded from the vessel MV Gema. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Ex-rebs kill businessman

ANGELES CITY—Three bullets pumped into his head by suspected rebel returnees killed businessman Remigio Simpauco, a former martial law activist and the city government's former executive secretary, early Tuesday.

Simpauco's murder, the first to occur since last year here, came as a shock to Angeles City's business community, business leaders told the INQUIRER.

His female secretary and her male visitor witnessed the killing, reports gathered by Chief Insp. Lorenzo Detran, Barangay Balibago police station chief, told reporters.

According to the witnesses, three men—one in his 20s and the two in their mid-30s—entered the office of Simpauco's security agency in Galang Building in Balibago here about 10 a.m.

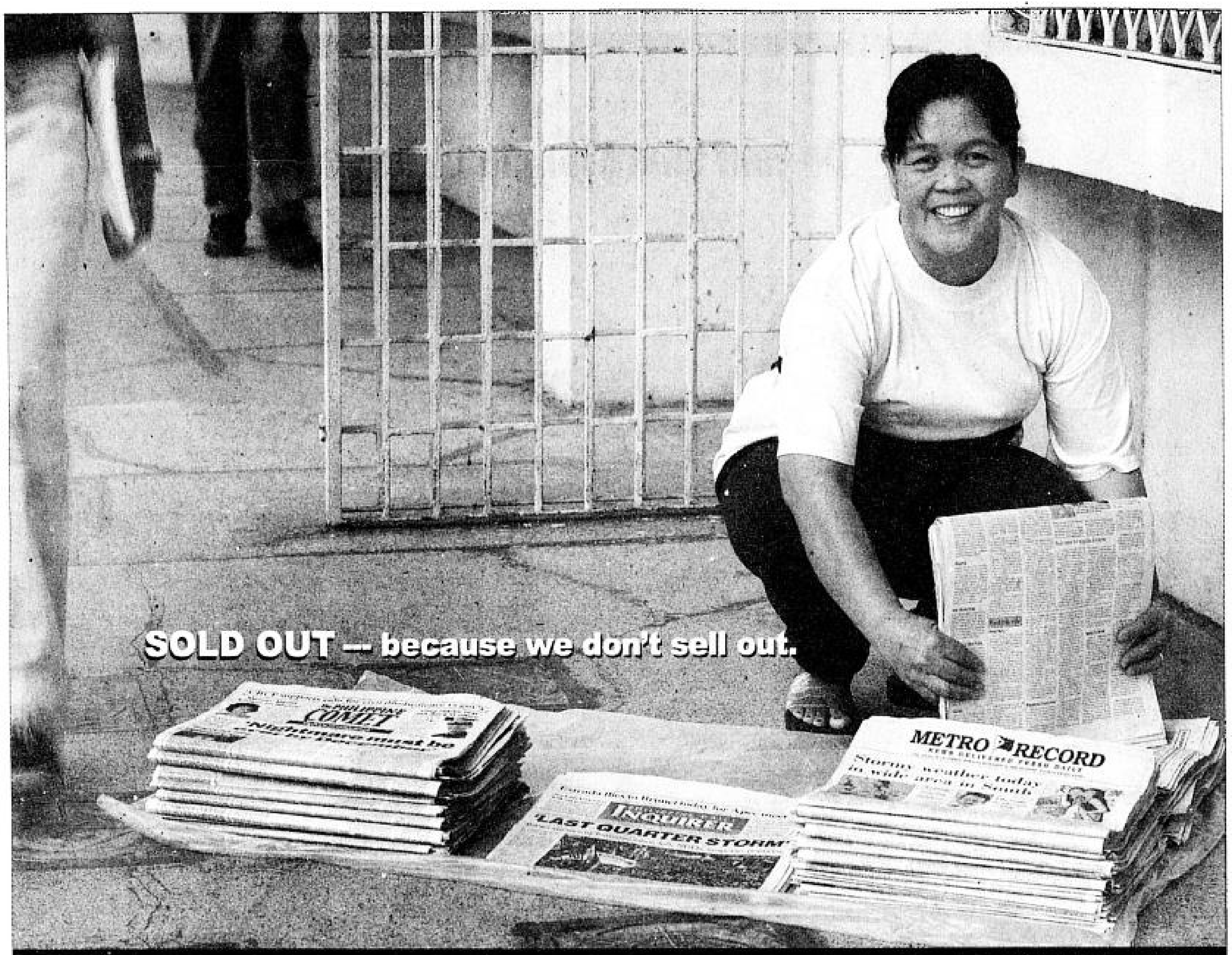
Seconds after introducing themselves as applicants, the suspects, all wearing long-sleeved shirts, poked their 9mm and .45 cal. pistols at the secretary and her visitor.

The suspects bound the hands of the witnesses with masking tape and gagged their mouths.

Minutes later, the gunmen asked the secretary to usher them into Simpauco's office on the building's second floor.

At the office, the suspects demanded documents from Simpauco. Before he could get the documents, a gunman fired at him pointblank.

Simpauco was killed instantly, reports said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



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Scout Magbanua lives in mom's heart

BY ALEX PAL
Dumaguete City

IN HER spacious home on Scout Magbanua Street in the quiet neighborhood in Barangay Bantayan, Dumaguete City, Monserrat Magbanua leafed through some personal documents that brought back wonderful memories of her son Jose Fermin.

THE LOST CONTINGENT: Scout Jojo Magbanua (without his *salakot*) waves to well-wishers who saw them off at the Manila International Airport 38 years ago. PHOTO FROM SCOUT MAGBANUA MEMORABILIA

Today marks the 38th year since that fateful plane crash in the Aegean Sea that killed her son and 23 other Filipino Boy Scouts and Scout leaders on their way to Marathon, Greece, to attend the 11th World Jamboree.

All 63 passengers of the United Arab Airlines flight died in the crash on July 28, 1963. Jose Fermin (Jojo to his family) was only 14 years old.

For his 82-year-old mother, however, the tragedy seemed to have happened only recently.

"Every time his anniversary comes around, it's always as though it was the first time. I anticipate it, I really get excited about the prospect of observing his death anniversary and I would never want to miss it," Monserrat said.

Jojo represented Troop 37 of the Silliman University High School and the Negros Oriental-Siquijor Boy Scouts Council in the jamboree. He was the only Visayan delegate.

The other Philippine delegates who died in the plane crash were Dr. Bonifacio Lazcano, scout master and physician; Florante Ojeda, president of the Agusan Scout Council; Rev. Fr. Jose Martinez, S.J., assistant scout master and chaplain of the Misamis Oriental council; Filamar Reyes, assistant scout master and member of the Pasay City council;

Scouts Ramon Albano, Wilfredo Santiago and Henry Chuatoco of Letran College; Scout Jose Antonio Delgado of San Beda College; Scout Felix Fuentebella of Camarines Sur; Scouts Patricio Bayoran and Gabriel Borromeo of the Pasay City Scout Council;

Scouts Roberto Castor and Romero Rallos of the Quezon City council; Scouts Victor de Guia of Baguio City, Antonio Limbaga of Zamboanga City, Roberto Lozano of Dagupan City, Paulo Madrinan of Pasay City and Antonio Torillo of the Cavite council;

Scouts Ascario Tuazon Jr. and Rogelio Ybardolaza of the Manila council; and Scout Benecio Tobias of the Tarlac council.

Good example

The Negros Oriental Boy Scouts council usually observed Magbanua's anniversary with floral offerings at his tomb at the Dumaguete Memorial Park. This time, the commemoration rite will include the unveiling of the Scout Jojo Magbanua statue at the Boy Scouts Headquarters.

The statue was erected because "Jojo was a good example and model to the youth," said council chief executive Alexander Kong III.

The council's headquarters on Kagawasan Avenue in Dumaguete also hosts the Scout Jojo Magbanua memorabilia, which contains souvenirs about the fallen scout.

In the collection are photographs, news clippings, a baseball glove and even a ceramic wall decoration with the Scout's Oath, which fell from Jojo's room and cracked on the week he died.

All the items were donated by the Magbanua family. Monserrat still keeps other personal things to remember her son by. These include a letter she wrote to Jojo after seeing him off at the Manila International Airport for Hong Kong en route to Greece.

"These are words of advice which any mother would write her departing son, but I just treasure this letter so much," she said.

Jojo's death has changed the lives of his parents and five siblings.

"We became more aware that there is a divine hand that manifests itself in our lives. We never thought God would take with one hand and give with the other," Monserrat said.

She recalled that at that time, the construction business of her husband was not doing well as expected, and they were sending six children and 10 nieces and nephews to school.

"We told Jojo that we could not give him any more money because we only had about P6,000, and we needed it to build a house. Jojo said, 'Dad, don't worry. I will build your house for you.'"

Promise fulfilled

It was only after the plane crash that the family learned that Jojo had obtained an accident insurance policy at the airport just before their plane left Manila.

"Who would ever think that these words would come from a boy who didn't know (what would happen)? He was not a prophet or anything. We just marvel at what he said," the teary-eyed mother recalled.

She said they were happy even when they were not financially well-off. "We would not have minded being poor for as long as Jojo would be with us."

Aside from building them their beautiful home, the money from Jojo's insurance allowed the Magbanuas to start the Scout Jose Fermin Magbanua scholarship for outstanding Boy Scouts at Silliman, benefiting over 50 Boy and Girl Scouts.

This has been expanded to the public schools in the Negros Oriental Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Council.

The scholarship also extends assistance to scouts who have to attend jamborees.

"Maybe it happened that way because the Lord wanted it to be that way. It was His plan," Monserrat said.

The incident also drew the Magbanuas closer to the scouting movement.

"I would like the teachings of scouting to have an impact on the lives of boys and girls so they can become better citizens of the future—the kind of leaders we really want—honest, sincere, dedicated, truthful—all the qualities that seem to be lost in the present day-generation of young people," she said.

"And if Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting can make them better men and women, I would gladly keep on supporting the movement to the end of my days. I believe in the scouting movement with all my heart."

I hate that mosquito!

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

LIKE AIDS, most people think they will never get dengue fever. We take it for granted until it hits us close to home. You don't choose not to have dengue, the mosquito *Aedis Egypti* chooses you. And it doesn't care if you are rich or poor, educated or not, adult or child.

A Filipina researcher died of dengue in Indonesia a few weeks ago. Ogie Alcasid's wife and daughter have just survived it. Many children we don't know died of it.

Former Governor Lito Coscolluela of Negros Occidental is now in the hospital.

My family had our brush with this evil mosquito, which probably bit our niece Tim in Cebu while she was on a school field trip. She arrived home with a fever, and since Tim has a naturally pleasant disposition and one who hardly complains about her discomfort, her mother did not notice anything peculiar. But we are lucky to have three siblings who are doctors in the family, who suspected something else, so Tim was immediately tested for what they thought appeared to be typhoid fever. Or what we hoped was typhoid fever. But when I listened to my siblings analyze the blood count, eliminate this and that, and started using medical language with an almost monotonous tone, I knew there was something wrong. It could be dengue.

When I heard that, I could not believe it was happening to us.

Tim was brought to the hospital, where my siblings monitored her platelet count. Watch out especially when the fever stops or goes down, that's when the platelet goes down. Tim's platelet count kept on dropping and we prayed and prayed. Tim is a prayerful girl, and when I spoke to her she said she was not scared. My three siblings, including Tim's father, got ready for a blood transfusion. The downward trend slowed down, and then hit 27,000 (the normal platelet count is between 150,000 to 450,000). They got ready for a blood transfusion.

I called my brother Casten, and asked for an objective assessment. Hardly a fair question to ask of an uncle of the patient, but I told him to give me the bottom line. And here is what he told me, which to my mind any sensitive doctor should say to his or her patients, "we know what the problem is, we have the resources, the rest is up to God."

And it is at that stage when we let God do the rest. Tim's platelet count started going up little by little, but didn't drop again. Tim got well, and is now governor of her graduating class. When we recall her battle against dengue we thank God she is a big girl with a strong endurance—prayerful and cheerful. Nowadays nobody tells her to lose weight anymore.

But I hate that evil mosquito, that *Aedis Egypti*, which looks just like any mosquito except that it has a white stripe in its back and strikes from four in the afternoon till it starts to get dark, and bites again before sunrise.

It breeds in clean stagnant water like in flower vases, bottles, and even clean canals and water wells. You can drive it away by fogging but you can't kill its larva that way.

Sometimes I imagine this must be the mosquito that caused the deaths under "mysterious circumstances" of those who disturbed the tombs in Egypt, the one they probably called a curse in the olden days. But there is nothing mysterious about this mosquito. It's a mosquito and we can kill it.

The way to the dengue mosquito is for all of us to make sure we eliminate all their breeding places. We should clean up our yard everyday, throw away stagnant water in cans, bottles, tires. Change the water in your flower vases everyday if you can't live without flowers in your homes.

And I mean we, all of us, our neighborhood. I am beginning to sound like the Department of Health but yes, educating our people against dengue is the answer to this problem.

You are lucky if you survive dengue. If you do you probably have the money. It costs a thousand pesos per person just to screen a blood donor. Where will a poor family get that? They have nowhere to go but to government hospitals who do not have sufficient resources. The national and local governments urge us to help prevent dengue. It should also spend for all the expenses of indigent patients in government hospitals.

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Eruptions won't make him leave

MALILIPOT, Albay—Felomino Vasquez, 78, is a survivor.

This resident of Barangay Calbayog, a village within the permanent danger zone around Mayon Volcano, has never experienced staying at an evacuation center.

No volcanic eruption has been so strong as to make him flee his home—not even the 1993 eruption that killed 74 farmers like himself.

The 74 were charred, almost beyond recognition, by superheated pyroclastic materials that flowed down Mayon's slopes and plowed through the farms they were tending at that time.

On Thursday morning, during the eruption that was described as more violent than the ones that occurred in the past three years, Vasquez again refused to abandon his hut even while hundreds of his co-villagers were scrambling for safety.

"I would rather stay home than be at the congested evacuation center," the old man said in his native Bicolano.

Rev. Father Ricky Bermas, Mount Carmel parochial vicar, visited his parishioners in Calbayog and tried but failed to convince Vasquez to leave.

Almost all the residents of Barangay Calbayog are being housed at the San Jose evacuation center.

Early Thursday, the men trekked back to their village to tend to their animals.

At least 40 farmers were busy with their crops. Among them were the Biñas brothers Ceferino, 51, and Jimmy, 36, who abandoned the copra produce that they were about to take to the market when they heard strong explosions and sensed ground tremors at the foot of Mayon.

But Vasquez was steadfast.

"I have never heeded any call to leave," he said, adding that even at the evacuation center, any one could die if his time had come.

He recalled that he found himself alone in the village immediately after the 1984 eruption. It was very dark even if it was only afternoon, he said, and he just prayed to God for his safety.

"Life depends on God, and death comes to everyone wherever he is," Vasquez said.

MAD, 6 other party-list winners face ax

(From page A1)

Comelec sought an additional 15 days to wrap up its findings.

An earlier INQUIRER report said that aside from the seven candidates mentioned, those who gathered the biggest number of votes in the party-list election were Bayan Muna (11.3 percent), Akbayan Citizens Action Party (2.5 percent) and Luzon Farmers Party or Butil (2.2 percent).

At least 2 percent

The law requires a candidate to get at least 2 percent of the base total of all votes in the party-list election in order to gain a seat in the House.

Each 2 percent allows a candidate to enter a nominee. The candidates can enter a maximum of three nominees even if they exceed 6 percent of the base total.

If the seven groups mentioned by the Comelec are disqualified, their votes will be deducted from the base total of all party-list votes and allow those below the top 10 to move up and meet the 2-percent requirement.

The others included in the top 24 party-list candidates are Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Buhay Hayaang. Yumabong, Anak Mindanao, Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda, Cocofed, Cooperative Natcoo, National Confederation of Irrigators, Partido ng Manggagawa, Asosasyon Para sa Kaunlaran ng Industriya ng Aklat, True Marcos Loyalists, Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association, Bigkis Pinoy, Sanlakas and Aksyon Demokratiko.

Petition

Four candidates—Akbayan, Promdi, Butil and Apec—filed a petition yesterday morning urging the Comelec to announce the winners. They pointed out that the poll body completed on July 18 its summary evidentiary hearings to determine those qualified among the top 24.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales said they filed the motion for "immediate proclamation" because the Comelec also submitted to the Supreme Court the other day its partial report on the candidates who should be disqualified.

Rosales said the Comelec should immediately proclaim the winners because it no longer needed the tribunal to determine which candidates should be included in the winners' list.

"The Supreme Court is a court of law and not a court of facts," she said.

Rosales explained that the Comelec was the one assigned to determine who was qualified. Thus, she said, it had the competence or authority to declare the rightful winners.

She pointed out that the tribunal's remanding the case to the Comelec was similar to its remanding a case back to a lower court.

"In that case, the Comelec would be like a lower court which can decide a case on its own. Those who do not agree with the decision can appeal to the Supreme Court," she said.

Rosales also said the remaining 130 candidates wanted the Comelec to extend the period of its review of their qualifications.

She said that once Akbayan was proclaimed winner, she would file a petition urging Congress to investigate the conduct of the last party-list election to avoid confusion and mistakes next time. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

Defiant Mayon folk say: We run, we return ...

(From page A1)

An effusive eruptive stage means that lava flow is continuing, according to Dr. Ernesto Corpuz of the Phivolcs.

"We expect to have more massive explosions any time within the next few days," Corpuz said at his headquarters at Lignon Hill here.

Alert Level No. 5, the highest signal indicating that a hazardous eruption is in progress, is still in effect because of ongoing tremors, significant ground deformation and massive sulfur dioxide emissions. These, Phivolcs said, indicated that more eruptions were imminent.

The Thursday eruptions produced life-threatening pyroclastic flows, which swept mainly through the Bonga Gully in the southeast and the Basud Gully in the east.

Smaller flows ran through the Miisi and Anoling gullies in the southern slope, and still others in the southwest and western sectors.

But all flows were contained within the 6-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone, which has been extended to 7 kilometers.

An early-morning observation yesterday showed that the tip of an advancing flow was at an elevation of about 700 meters, or about 3 and a half kilometers from the summit crater.

But Corpuz said that at the rate the lava was flowing, it was unlikely to go beyond the danger zone.

Coming home

The Associated Press reported that many villagers, after a nervous night's wait away from home, tentatively returned for the day yesterday to resume scaled-down routines.

Passenger jeepneys kicked up volcanic ash, farmers rode carabaos to their fields and residents tidied up their ash-covered homes.

Birds chirped and leaves rustled in the breeze, nearly drowning out the faint puffing sounds from the volcano as it periodically blew gray ash into the air.

The ash rapidly poured from the crater before hitting an obstacle halfway down and soaring upward into a dark, cauliflower cloud.

Despite the danger, Romeo Mansanera, a 31-year-old farmer from Buyuan village, returned to pick up the fresh volcanic rocks that showered the area on Thursday.

"This one's still hot," he said, holding a gray boulder the size of a microwave oven that he planned to sell to gravel crushers.

"We earn some money from selling rocks, but of course we have to wait for the danger to pass," Mansanera said.

But as Phivolcs warned, the danger has not passed.

Experts have recommended that all activities be prohibited inside the extended danger zone.

The zone is highly vulnerable to hazardous pyroclastic flows, volcanic surges and explosions, they said.

Corpuz said the instability of new pyroclastic deposits at Mayon's summit and slopes might produce secondary explosions and landslide-induced secondary flows.

Pyroclastic flows can reach speeds of up to 100 kilometers per hour and temperatures of 700 degrees Celsius, incinerating anything in their path.

State of calamity

PDCC chief Cedric Daep said that after the initial shock attendant to the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, all problems related to congestion, food and water distribution and disease outbreak had been solved.

He said the province of Albay remained in the state of calamity declared by the local government after Mayon's June 24 eruption, in order to speed up the release of emergency funds.

Daep said the more pressing problem of the PDCC was the threat of lahar flow.

He said villagers living near river channels originating from the volcano had been warned to be ready to move to higher ground in case of sudden, rain-triggered lahar floods.

Some 10-15 million cubic meters of fresh pyroclastic debris are loosely deposited on Mayon's summit and slopes. These are apart from some 30 million cubic meters of debris deposited during earlier eruptions.

"We are on a constant lookout for any weather disturbance because it would be a worrisome scenario if we experience a typhoon at this time," Daep told the INQUIRER. *With an AP report*

Wife's place not in the sala, SC tells judge

(From page A1)

his wife's presence in his sala following complaints that she has assumed his functions as an officer of the court.

A Court of Appeals investigation found that the wife of Judge Frisco Lilagan, presiding judge of Branch 34 of the Tacloban City Regional Trial Court, not only had personal knowledge of cases handled by her husband, but had turned his chambers into her informal boutique.

"Mrs. Lilagan," as she was referred to in a high court decision, sells shoes, bags, herbal medicines and other products to court personnel and lawyers with pending cases in her husband's sala.

The Supreme Court, in a 10-page decision released by its first division, upheld the appellate court's findings that Judge Lilagan had placed so much trust in his wife she is allowed access "to court records in order to monitor the dates when cases are submitted for decision."

"There is impropriety in this," the high court said in the decision penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago.

"Records of cases are necessarily confidential, and to preserve their integrity and confidentiality, access thereto ought to be limited only to the judge, the parties or their counsel and the appropriate court personnel in charge of the custody thereof.

"Since Mrs. Lilagan is not a court employee, much less the employee specifically in charge of the custody of the said records, it was improper for (the judge) to allow her to have access (to them)," the high tribunal added.

The investigation was launched following separate complaints filed by Marissa Gordon, a legal researcher, and a certain Jose B. Navarro, which the court later said was a fictitious name.

Gordon alleged that Ms Lilagan was always in her husband's office selling Newport bags and shoes and Symmetry herbal products to lawyers and court personnel.

Gordon also accused Ms Lilagan of acting as the judge's alter ego "since she calls and presides over court staff meetings, assigns staff workloads and discusses the merits of decisions and resolutions, sometimes even with the lawyers and party-litigants."

Shook up

Gordon complained that Ms Lilagan's alleged antics were "being allowed and tolerated with pride (sic)" by her judge-husband.

She also accused Ms Lilagan of maltreating her on Dec. 16, 1999. The researcher said the judge's wife followed her into his chambers, closed the door and gripped her upper arms tightly and shook her roughly.

Gordon produced a medical certificate attesting to injuries she sustained as a result of this episode.

But Ms Lilagan, in turn, produced three witnesses saying she had only scolded the researcher for spreading alleged falsehoods about her and her husband.

Violation

Judge Lilagan, for his part, argued that his wife's presence in his office did not violate court rules.

The Supreme Court disagreed, saying Ms Lilagan's constant presence in the judge's sala violated Rule 2.03 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which says a judge "shall not allow family, social or other relationships to influence judicial conduct or judgment."

It added that the judge's practice of allowing his wife to "go over the records of cases in his sala may indeed convey the impression that she is the one who can probably influence (his) official functions."

Axe to grind?

Judge Lilagan said Gordon was only getting back at him for refusing to allow her to go on leave while reviewing for the bar examinations.

The judge also said Gordon might have an axe to grind since he recalled a voucher she prepared for a conference she was supposed to attend.

The judge also denied that his wife sells items in his office.

He said his wife would stay there to help him with his caseload because "she was previously employed in the judiciary as a legal researcher of the Regional Trial Court of Pangasinan, Branch 51 for almost four years" before running for public office in Eastern Samar.

The Supreme Court said Judge Lilagan could not be faulted for the incident that transpired between his wife and Gordon since there was no evidence showing his complicity in his wife's acts.

"If at all, what transpired was apparently a quarrel between two women and since it happened so fast, there was no way by which (the) judge could have anticipated or prevented it," the court said.

However, the court noted, the incident would probably not have happened if Ms Lilagan did not frequent her husband's office so much.

Give me alternatives, Gloria tells critics

(From page A1)

easy to criticize. My question to the opposition is this: Do they have an alternative agenda? If there is, out with it so that we can see which one could better help the people instead of talking about inconsequential matters," she said.

The President said the opposition should present alternatives to her goals like generating a million jobs in the agriculture sector, building 150,000 housing units every year for the poor, and providing education for all and food on every table.

Harping on three points

"Unfortunately, I have not heard of any clear idea from the opposition. No alternative, no suggestion or vision. Only criticisms," she said.

Ms Macapagal said the "enemy" harped on three points about her Sona.

That the economy had collapsed because of her, that she was dreaming of all the programs because there are no funds to support them and that the paper boats made by three Payatas children, she cited in her Sona, represented a "nation that is sinkable, precarious and going nowhere."

The President rebutted the points raised by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara in his counter-Sona at the Senate.

She said that the senator, whom she did not mention by name, painted an economic collapse, which the senator blamed on her "harsh, misleading and unrealistic" programs.

The President said she had no control over external factors affecting the local economy.

"This administration is only six months old. I think it is not too much to ask for more time to cure these problems that we inherited and to implement programs to strengthen the economy and the country's security," she said.

The President reiterated that funds were available for her programs, including the P20 billion for housing, P20 billion for agriculture and a host of other programs.

"There is money and there will be money to finance our programs," she said.

The President said government would not finance all the programs as the private sector was helping her.

Yesterday, the Chinese Filipino Business Club turned over to her two school buildings for Albay and Pangasinan. She said the CFBC had donated school buildings for other areas.

The President donated P12 million from the President's social fund to help the Habitat for Humanity Philippines to build 100 housing units for the poor.

She said Habitat had raised a counterpart fund of P19 million.

Militants' 'war room'

Malacañang plans to set up a "war room" to monitor the progress of the President's commitments.

Militant groups yesterday said they were putting up their own version of the "war room."

Crispin Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, said the "people's war room" would have nationalist economists and data analysts.

He said the people's war room would have better measures than Malacañang in monitoring whether Ms Macapagal was keeping her promises.

"We have the advantage of being actual members of the grassroots sectors spread across the country," Beltran said. "Our information network and feedback-gathering mechanism is undoubtedly better."

The House of Representatives has already created a special oversight committee to monitor whether the President was fulfilling her promises.

House leaders have identified 35 promises made by the President when she addressed the opening of the 12th Congress on July 23.

Population explosion ignored

These promises did not include reducing the country's rapidly growing population.

Like a big elephant in a dining room that goes unnoticed, the country's burgeoning population was conveniently ignored in Ms Macapagal's Sona, Akbayan party-list representative Etta Rosales pointed out yesterday.

"We really have to contend with our growing population. If a population management program were not included, any anti-poverty plan would surely fail," she said.

"The populations of the countries around us are growing below 2 percent while ours still have an annual growth of 2.4 percent," Rosales said. *With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta and Philip C. Tubeza*

Tax cuts will worsen deficit, solon warns

(From page A1)

income tax were "unrealistic."

The finance department expects a P29-billion reduction in personal income tax to be offset by a P56-billion gain from the shift to a modified gross income tax on business for a net gain of P27 billion.

"The projected gain from the new business income tax is simply unrealistic since it implies a 65-percent increase over the P86-billion collection from this source in 2000, Salceda said.

The proposal is to reduce corporate tax from 32 percent to either 26, 21 or 20 percent. The reduction will be accompanied by the removal of exemptions for items like advertisement, travel, representation and training.

"In reality, this implies an increase of up to three times in effective tax rates since a comparable proxy estimate of 'gross income tax' based on 1999 figures (using actual income taxes paid by corporations as a percentage of gross income) stood at only 7.8 percent," Salceda said.

He noted that the revenue projections of the finance department were based on a tax model from a study funded by the United States Aid for International Development (USAID) using 1996 data.

Not accurate

Salceda questioned the forecasting accuracy of the tax model because it did not take into account the impact of the Asian financial crisis and the implementation of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program in 1997.

"The model is static and the estimate does not account for the second round negative consequence on directly affected industries such as restaurants, hotels, transport and other services," he said.

Salceda described the proposed tax measure as "revenue neutral" as gains made from business taxes would just offset whatever losses sustained from tax cuts on individuals.

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) wants the government to immediately certify to Congress as a priority administration measure the proposed modified gross income tax system.

Ecop president Donald G. Dee said the enactment of the measure would be a big relief for both corporations and the working class.

Dee said a reduction in tax payments would ease the burden on firms suffering from the economic slowdown, weakening peso and low consumer demand.

Salceda said the proposed new income tax schedule for taxpayers would directly benefit only the 1.7 million people who filed income tax returns in 2000 and not the rest of the 27 million workers.

Pro-middle class

"The proposed tax package is 'pro-middle class' at the expense of those belonging to the D and E sectors who hardly pay any income tax but depend on the public social services principally financed by taxes for their daily needs," Salceda said.

Under the finance department proposal, those earning a yearly income of P75,000 or lower *(not monthly as erroneously reported yesterday)* are tax exempt; between P75,001 and P150,000, a tax of 7 percent; P150,001-P350,000, 14 percent; P350,001-P650,000, 21 percent; and more than P650,000, 28 percent.

At present, those earning a yearly income of P10,000 and below are slapped a 5-percent tax; P10,001-P30,000, 10 percent; P30,001-P70,000, 15 percent; P70,001-P140,000, 20 percent; P140,001-P250,000, 25 percent; P250,001-P500,000, 30 percent; and more than P500,000, 32 percent.

Dee noted that the measure would go a long way in alleviating the plight of the working class.

The Ecop president said the tax cuts would increase the take home pay of the 28 million employed in the country.

"This is a better alternative for workers than a wage adjustment, which can easily be eroded by increases in prices of basic commodities and transport fares as well as upward adjustments in oil prices and power and water rates," Dee said. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 8:30 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

Max Power at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

2001 Indianapolis 500 Official Film at 12 noon (r) on ESPN

2001 F1 Qualifying - German Grand Prix at 7 p.m. (r – tomorrow at 1 a.m.) on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Sybase Big Apple Classic, Third Round at 3 p.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

PGA John Deere Classic, Second Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Aussie sinks record

FUKUOKA, Japan — Australian Geoff Huegill broke his own world record in the men's 50-meter butterfly Friday in a semifinal at the world swimming championships. Huegill, who won bronze in the 100-meter butterfly at last year's Sydney Olympics, finished in 23.44 seconds to eclipse the mark of 23.60 he set at Sydney in March of last year. *AP*

P'foods, Red Bull clash in semis

GAMES TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:15 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS refused to be cowed by Tanduay's deadly onslaught in the homestretch last night to prevail, 82-74, and barge into the semifinals of the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Philsports Arena.

In the second game, Red Bull manhandled Barangay Ginebra, 82-70, to arrange a best-of-five semifinal showdown with Purefoods. San Miguel Beer tackles Alaska in the other half of the semis.

Getting the needed numbers from the stripe, the Hotdogs squelched the Rhummasters final quarter surge to advance into the next phase.

Alvin Patrimonio, Rey Evangelista and Boyet Fernandez accounted for the Hotdogs' five of eight gift shots down the stretch while the Rhummasters squandered opportunities at the other end to close out their campaign on a sad note.

"We struggled in offense but played well in defense. Whatever happens on Monday at least we will leave a legacy with this victory," said Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano.

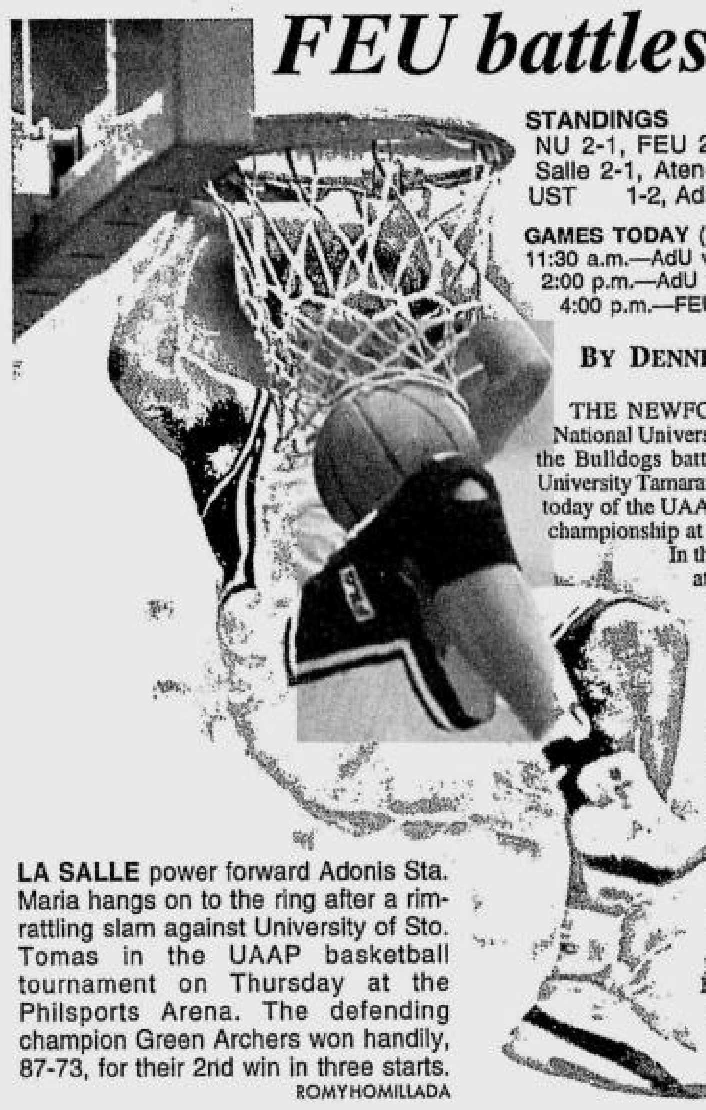
On Monday, the PBA board of governors will decide whether to grant the Hotdogs an extension or let the franchise close shop after being acquired recently by San Miguel Corporation.

SMC also owns Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer. PBA rule states that members can only maintain two teams in the league. The Hotdogs played like a well-oiled machine against the Rhummasters, who played minus Eric Menk.

PUREFOODS 82—Castillo 16, Wood 16, Evangelista 16, Fernandez 15, Yee 7, Patrimonio 6, Seigle 4, Yap 2, Felhl 0.

TANDUAY 74—Carlaso 26, Freeman 16, Hontiveros 12, Hawkins 8, Realubit 4, Webb 4, Locsin 2, Balingit 2, Pumaren 0.

FEU battles dangerous NU



LA SALLE power forward Adonis Sta. Maria hangs on to the ring after a rim-rattling slam against University of Sto. Tomas in the UAAP basketball tournament on Thursday at the Philsports Arena. The defending champion Green Archers won handily, 87-73, for their 2nd win in three starts.
ROMY HOMILLADA

STANDINGS
NU 2-1, FEU 2-1, UE 2-1, La Salle 2-1, Ateneo 2-1, UP 1-2, UST 1-2, Adamson 0-3

GAMES TODAY (Loyola Gym)
11:30 a.m.—AdU vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2:00 p.m.—AdU vs Ateneo (Srs)
4:00 p.m.—FEU vs NU (Srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE NEWFOUND strength of National University will be tested as the Bulldogs battle the Far Eastern University Tamaraws in the main game today of the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

In the other senior game at 2 p.m., Ateneo is heavily favored to prevail over winless Adamson. Ateneo is riding high on the strength of its 67-64 victory over FEU on July 22.

Ateneo, NU and FEU, La Salle and UE share the lead with identical 2-1, win-loss cards.

Defending champion Ateneo tackle Fr. Martin's Cup winner Adamson in the lone junior encounter at 11:30 a.m.

JRU seeks 5th win vs PCU

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
12nn—SSC vs SBC (jrs/srs)
3p.m.—JRU vs PCU (jrs/srs)

By June Navarro

JOSE Rizal University guns for a fifth consecutive win against lowly Philippine Christian University today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Heavy Bombers stake their clean slate opposite the Dolphins at 5 p.m. after the 1:30 p.m. battle between the San Sebastian Stags and the San Beda Red Lions.

Coming from an impressive 103-98 beating of the Red Lions, the Heavy Bombers hope to ride on that momentum to beat the Dolphins, who have yet to infuse consistency despite playing solidly for the past three years.

But although the Dolphins are languishing at the cellar along with the Lions at 1-3, their lone win was done at the expense of defending champion College of St. Benilde last week.

That reversal sent a strong message to the Bombers that the Dolphins are back with their giant-killing ways.

The Stags' ferocity will be tested to the hilt against the Red Lions, who are known for their deadly running game.

The Red Lions are the highest scoring squad, averaging at least 80 points per outing in four games.

Lhuillier beats Nueva Ecija

STANDINGS
LBC Batangas 9-2, Andok's San Juan 9-3, Negros 9-4, Cebuana Lhuillier 9-4, *FedEx Laguna 5-6, Nueva Ecija 2-9, *Davao 2-9, Socsargen 2-10.
**Playing at presstime*

CABANATUAN CITY—Cebuana Lhuillier bucked the absence of Matthew Mitchell and banked on a 16-9 wind-up to beat Nueva Ecija, 94-87, yesterday in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Araullo Centrum here.

Peter Naron, Roy Lura and Homer Se provided the heroics in the last 4:30 minutes as the Gems posted their ninth win in 13 games and catched up with archrival Negros at third spot.

Nueva Ecija, which missed the presence of injured big man Dave Bautista in the shaded lane, dropped to 2-9. The Patriots must sweep their last three assignments and pray that FedEx Laguna (5-6), which was playing Davao at presstime, would not reach six wins in order to forge a playoff for the fifth and last slot in the quarterfinals.

Naron, an acquisition from the Cagayan de Oro franchise, took up the cudgels for Cebu, pumping in 18 points, grabbing seven rebounds and three assists to fill in the void left by Mitchell, who left for the United States the other day to attend to family matters.

The scores:

Cebuana Lhuillier 94—Naron 18, Lura 17, Delantes 12, Se 10, Taguines 10, Yu 10, Sayon 8, Padilla 7, Mejia 2, Sasan 0, Montalbo 0

Nueva Ecija 87—Aquino 18, A. de Guzman 16, Bansil 15, de Guia 14, J. de Guzman 12, Allen 9, Manucat 3, Bunyi 0, Racho 0.

Quarterscores: 20-24, 47-47, 69-65, 94-87

Bosco, Agustin make football finals

DON Bosco Makati and Colegio San Agustin dominated their respective groups to earn tickets to the inaugural Lipovitan 4 on 4 soccer campus tour finals.

Playing solidly, Don Bosco Makati drubbed Colegio de San Agustin A and B, Don Bosco B and Tuloy sa Don Bosco to rule the Lipovitan LPO HS boys division.

Colegio San Agustin topped the Lipovitan IRA girls side by downing Assumption A and B, Savio Youth Center and Colegio San Agustin B. The games were held at the Don Bosco Technical Institute grade school court at Pasay Road.

Organized by Pro-Aide Inc., the campus tour is being sponsored by Taisho Pharmaceuticals Phils, maker of Lipovitan LPO, Lipovitan XL and Lipovitan Ira. The co-sponsors are Mizuno, Magic 89.9, Excel Press, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center. Dexter M. Araquel is project director.

Earlier, Rizal Technological University made it to the college finals slated on Aug. 25-26 at the Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center in Makati City.

"We're very satisfied with the turnout and quality of competition.The success of this tournament means bright things for the future of 4 on 4 soccer in the country," said Araquel.

Paul Ceasar Diño, Michael Angelo Baquir, Aljohn Mari Racelis, Domingo Carlo Pallan and Paolo Agustus Togonon composed Don Bosco Makati. Mong Dang, Tara Plaza, Jenny del Villar, Kat del Villar and Angie Servillon made up Colegio San Agustin.

Elorde daughter debuts today

ELORDE

RITA Elorde, daughter of the legendary Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, makes her debut today as a professional boxer in the undercard of the "Fist of Fury" at Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Elorde meets Marissa Alarde, a daughter of a former OPBF champion, in a three-round bout which has threatened to steal the thunder from the Malcolm Tuñacao-Randy Mangubat WBC international flyweight mainer.

Two other WBC international bouts are scheduled, with WBC international junior flyweight titlist Juanito Rubillar staking his crown against Japanese Takahiko Mizuno and bantamweight holder Ricky Gayamo battling Abner Cordero.

This boxing extravaganza is promoted by Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde and supported by PCSO and Thunderbird.

For ticket inquiries, call 825-7229. Tickets bought may be exchanged with an equivalent bonus bet certificate at the Concierge section of the Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

Big-time karting returns

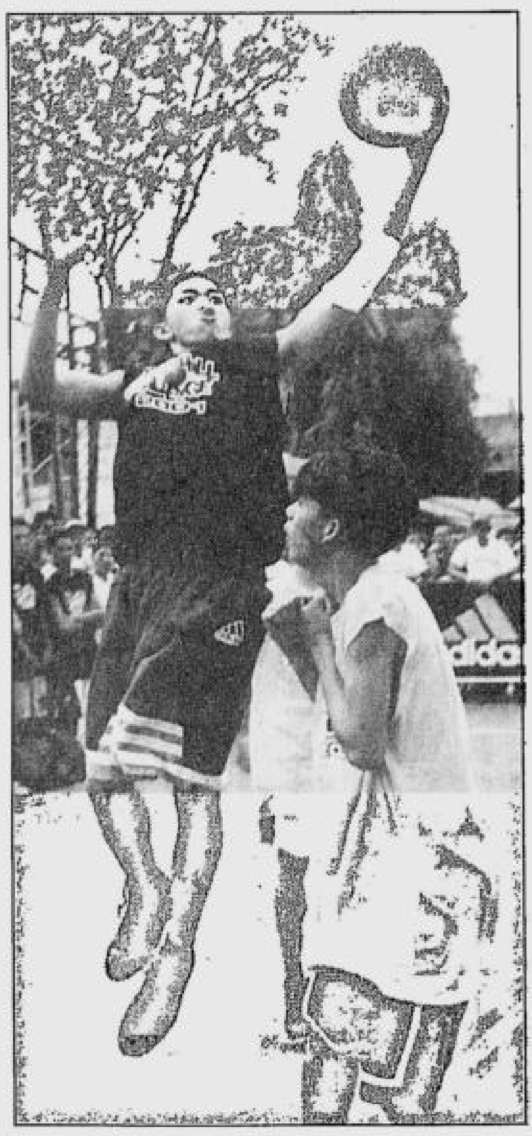
AFTER a six-week break, big time karting returns with Round 6 of the 2001 Shell super Karting Championships set this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The Carmona Circuit Philippines and the Philippine International Karting Association jointly organized the series, whose other benefactors are Bridgestone, Nokia, Coca-Cola, Demver's Enterprises, Eastway Racing and Matchbox/Hot Wheels.

In the last outing, American Lee Bumgarner beat his younger rivals in the F125 Class.

Angelo Barreto, Juha Roiha, Bert Neuhof and Mike Francisco are expected to give Bumgarner a stiff challenge.

Allan Uy, the series leader of the Intercon A class, relied on his vast driving experience in the wet to repulse the challenge of up and coming karters Bingo Valero, Mario Cunanan and Marzo Samson. Uy is one among the few karters who welcomes the sight of overcast skies hinting of rainshowers.



GLIDER

Harry Hipolito, the seniors MVP, glides for an easy twinner against an opponent during the recent Adidas Streetball Challenge in Davao. The Luzon leg will be held Aug. 4-5 in Baguio's Burnham Park.

Screening of stags slated

GAMEFOWL breeders should be ready with their new battlecrosses for the 2001 stagfigthing season.

Veteran Fil-Am cocker Richard Bates announced yesterday that screening of stags for the "Annual RLB 7-Stag Derby," slated on Aug. 28 and 30 at Mandaluyong Coliseum, will start on Wednesday, Aug. 1. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds Washout Shampoo.

Stags banded by Pagba, Ucap, Migba, NGBA and GF-BAN are automatically qualified to join. Individual participants who prefer farm-to-farm screening may contact Bates at 0916-3156991, (046)-4140750 (Cavite) or 824-0237 (Manila).

Entry fee is P25,000 and minimum bet is P11,000.

Screening will also be done at the Mandaluyong Coliseum on Aug. 16 and 26 (Sundays) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weight limits are from 1.7 kg to 2.2 kg. Submission of weights, from 2 p.m to 9 p.m., is strictly one day before. For other inquiries, please contact Mandaluyong Coliseum at 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341 (new number).

The annual stagfest commands a wide following from big-time cockers and breeders all over the country since Bates is well-known for his fair and strict implementation of rules.

Last year's RLB stagfest remains as Mandaluyong Coliseum's biggest crowd-drawer, according to coliseum manager Nandy Yu.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
New York	61	41	.598	
Boston	58	43	.574	2 1/2
Toronto	48	55	.466	13 1/2
Baltimore	42	60	.412	19
Tampa Bay	33	69	.324	28
Central				
Minnesota	60	42	.588	
Cleveland	58	42	.580	1
Chicago	50	50	.500	9
Detroit	43	56	.434	15 1/2
Kansas City	40	62	.392	20
West				
Seattle	73	29	.716	
Oakland	54	48	.529	19
Anaheim	52	50	.510	21
Texas	44	57	.436	28 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
Atlanta	57	45	.559	
Philadelphia	57	45	.559	
Florida	52	49	.515	4 1/2
New York	46	57	.447	11 1/2
Montreal	45	58	.437	12 1/2
Central				
Chicago	59	42	.584	
Houston	56	45	.554	3
St. Louis	51	49	.510	7 1/2
Milwaukee	44	56	.440	14 1/2
Pittsburgh	38	62	.380	20 1/2
Cincinnati	38	63	.376	21
West				
Arizona	59	43	.578	
Los Angeles	58	44	.573	1/2
San Francisco	54	49	.524	5 1/2
San Diego	49	53	.480	10
Colorado	43	59	.422	16

AMERICAN LEAGUE

N.Y. Yankees 14, Detroit 8; Minnesota 7, Oakland 4; Boston 6, Toronto 3; Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 4; Texas 9, Baltimore 7; Anaheim 5, Tampa Bay 3; Seattle 4, Kansas City 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 1; Montreal 3, Atlanta 2, 10 innings; Houston 3, Pittsburgh 2; Philadelphia 3, N.Y. Mets 2; San Francisco 11, Arizona 3; Los Angeles 3, Colorado 1. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. The Serpent 2. Dial Tone 3. Hinobaan's Pride 4. Smooth Sailing

Race 2—1. Ysabela 2. Red Bells 3. High Pocket

Race 3—1. Fortunate 2. Bravada 3. Sham Sham 4. Swinger 5. Ahoy There

Race 4—1. Hercules 2. Corporate Law 3. Justsaywhenjen 4. Heart of Gold

Race 5—1. Reverie 2. Foreign Exchange 3. Miguel's Pet 4. Memorabilia 5. Celebration

Race 6—1. American Music 2. Morning Nell 3. Ahead of Time 4. Speed Charm 5. Dazzling Doe

Race 7—1. Turbo Carera 2. Maximo 3. Don't Worry 4. Enjoy D View

Race 8—1. Khazan/Intrigera 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Majestic Ruler 4. Charming Belle 5. The Topnotcher

Race 9—1. Inner Wheeler 2. Free Time 3. Irish Star 4. Carolina Belle 5. Cuadro de Alas

Race 10—1. Aprey's Choice 2. Nervioso 3. Puzzling Friend 4. Lucky Swing 5. Portal Dancer

Race 11—1. Sparkling Sky 2. Sis Boom Bah 3. Queen Jamie 4. Gabriel's Pet 5. Guts

Race 12—1. Courage 2. Tayp Ko Yan 3. Pasikatera 4. The King 5. Pleasant Dream

Race 13—1. Bound to Be 2. Speed Goddess 3. Materiales Fuertes 4. D Raven 5. Brazen Truth 6. October Sky

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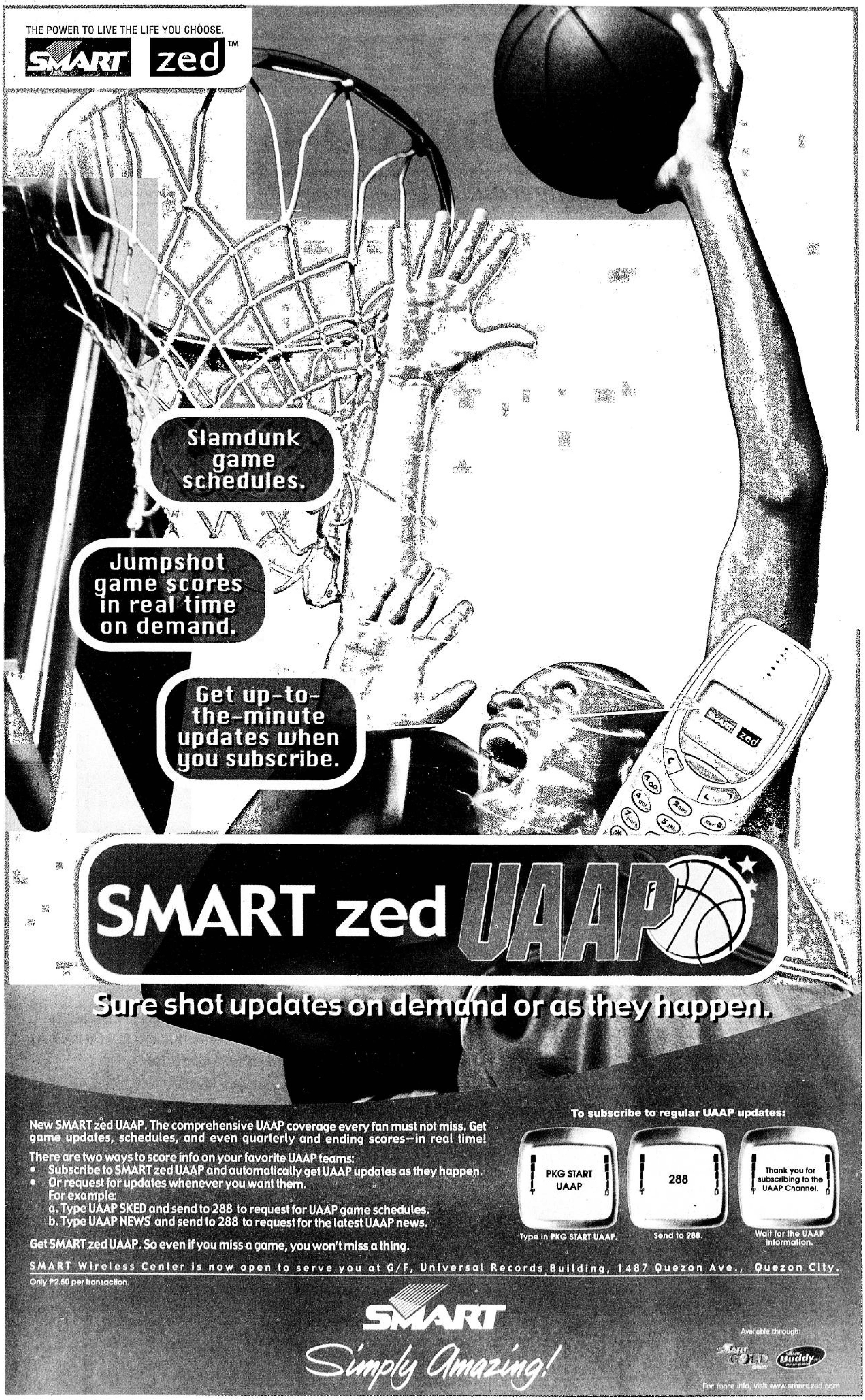

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Missing beauty's family raises fears she's been forced into white slavery
A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Random acts of kindness touch readers
A22

Tadao aide also a suspect

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE investigators are looking into the possibility that Antonio Clet had ordered someone to kill Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi so he could have full control of the musician's properties.

Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, Caloocan Station Investigation and Intelligence Division chief, yesterday said most of Hayashi's properties, including his two-bedroom bungalow in Caloocan City where he was found dead Monday morning, were in the name of Clet.

When Hayashi, 62, decided to live in the country in 1985, he bought properties through Clet, 57, due to legal limitations, Borromeo said.

Suspect Alex Ilagan, 31, who was arrested in a slum in Pasig City on Wednesday, had urged police to look into this angle.

Ilagan said he has known Clet for a long time and described him as "very domineering and an opportunist."

Clet was Hayashi's aide for 13 years.

."He's the one who should be investigated," Ilagan told the Inquirer. "He had the motive to have Tadao killed. He knows what really happened."

He said Hayashi often had to seek Clet's permission before he engaged in any business transaction.

He said that one time, Clet forced Hayashi to sell his Toyota Lite Ace van to a friend of Clet's so he (Clet) could get a commission.

Borromeo said police are investigating Clet mainly because of his "unusual" response to Hayashi's killing.

About 10 p.m. Sunday, Clet's daughter told him that the lights in Hayashi's house were off, which was "very unusual," Borromeo said.

Clet, who lives near Hayashi'shouse, phoned Hayashi's talent manager and was advised to seek police assistance the following morning, Borromeo said.

About 6 a.m. Monday, Clet, accompanied by village watchers, went to Hayashi's house at LD Village in Tala, Caloocan, the policeman said.

One of the watchers reportedly refused to enter the house because he was "afraid of blood," Borromeo said.

"How come they already knew that Hayashi was dead?" Borromeo asked.

Clet yesterday said he acted "unusually" on Saturday night because he had suspected that something bad had happened to Hayashi.

TADAO/ A20

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Cowboy Grill 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	HOMOSAPIENS STAY TUNED	P 250 CONSUMABLE 9-2 AM/521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	KOOL JACKS MIX-UP/FREEZE	SOUTHBORDER AUG. 8 250 CONS. F & D
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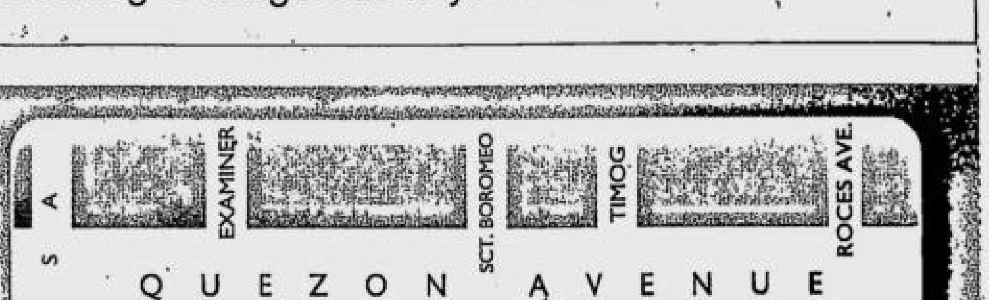

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SMART Simply Amazing!

Missing beauty's family raises fears she's been forced into white slavery

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FAMILY of missing Caloocan City beauty title holder Sheena Marie Gumabon fears that the lesbian suspected of abducting her on July 17 could be forcing the girl to work as a prostitute.

Yesterday, Gumabon's mother Herminia, 51, told police she discovered that suspect Leah Reyes, 28, had forced her 16-year-old daughter to work in pub houses in Quezon City since she went missing.

Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, Caloocan Station Investigation and Intelligence Division chief, confirmed Herminia's fears and said police found out that Gumabon was made to work as a guest relations officer after she was allegedly abducted.

Police said that Gumabon, the reigning Mutya ng Caloocan, has become a hit among male customers because of her "youth and beauty."

But police expected to find Gumabon yesterday, who was said to be in Quezon City.

Even if it appeared that Gumabon had gone with Reyes willingly, Reyes would be charged with abduction of minor, police said.

Owners of several bars, Herminia said, had told her that Reyes made her daughter work with other young girls she had also apparently lured.

Gumabon, a freshman student at Manila Central University, met Reyes at Ernesto's videoke bar in Novaliches sometime last year, Herminia said.

Reyes was said to be the supervisor of the bar when Gumabon worked there as a part-time singer.

Herminia said she allowed her daughter to work at the bar so she could get over her disappointment after losing a popular beauty contest on television.

Since she met Gumabon, Reyes was said to have been courting her.

Last week, a witness saw Gumabon leaving Ernesto's bar early in the morning of Tuesday, police said. Reyes was in a car with Gumabon, the witness said.

Gumabon has been missing since then.

Two days after Gumabon went missing, she was seen with Reyes buying groceries at I Mart on Quirino Avenue about 11:30 p.m., police said.

Gumabon was said to be wearing a sleeveless shirt and pedal pushers.

The following day, police said Gumabon called her sister Hemady on the phone and warned her that something bad might happen to her if the family is planning to do something about her disappearance.

Police said the call was traced as coming from Quezon City.

That was the last time Gumabon's family heard from her, police said.

Lacson's alleged illegal drugs trade

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson's worst nightmares are coming true now. His skeletons in the closet are slowly being laid bare to the public.

And the usually unflappable former chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and chief of the very powerful Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) is highly fidgety nowadays, according to my mole within his close circle.

"He's irritable these days, especially since you came out with your open letter to him in your column," said the highly reliable source.

* * *

His former henchmen, Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, have reportedly left for the United States leaving him to face the music.

"*Galit na galit si* Ping *dahil iniwan siya ng mga bata niya,*" the source said, "*parang hindi niya alam ang gagawin niya* (Ping is mad at Aquino and Mancao for leaving him. He doesn't seem to know what to do)."

What bothers Lacson no end is the possibility of a Senate inquiry, according to the mole, although he's been saying he would welcome it.

Slowly, people who know him very well are coming out to talk about Lacson and the alleged criminal activities of the special groups he headed when he was still in the service: the PAOCTF and Task Force Habagat of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

Here's a very interesting piece this writer has dug up about PAOCTF: in one of the rooms at its headquarters inside Camp Crame, seized methamphetamine hydrochloride (popularly known as shabu) was repacked for distribution in the streets.

PAOCTF was the main distribution center of shabu during the time of President Erap, according to a source who once worked for the special unit.

* * *

Where did the shabu come from?

My source said one of the sources of shabu was the sea off Mabini, Batangas, where the narcotic, taken in by ocean-going ships, was dumped.

Divers from the special reaction unit of the Navy's Special Warfare Group (SWAG) recovered 30 kilos of shabu twice a month from the same general area off Mabini.

The special reaction unit or SRU was attached to the PAOCTF purportedly to be used for its anti-crime operations. SRU is an elite unit within the elite SWAG, the local counterpart of the US Navy Seals. In short, it's the crème de la crème in the military.

* * *

The SRU, which has since been disbanded, was headed by Navy Lt. Don Anthony Luna.

Luna and his men reportedly got three kilos of the 30 kilos of shabu recovered by the SRU off Mabini, said my source.

In street sales, 30 kilos of shabu translated into P60 million at that time.

The SRU has since been disbanded and its members assigned in different units within the Navy because of its alleged involvement in a plot to destabilize the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

* * *

Another source of shabu that PAOCTF repacked for street distribution, according to the source, was arrested by PAOCTF and other PNP units, said my informant.

For example, the big shabu haul in Pangasinan during the Erap administration was cut in half when it reached Camp Crame, the informant said. The other half allegedly ended up at the PAOCTF headquarters and was repacked for street distribution.

Wow!

* * *

As the source was telling me about the alleged illegal activities of Lacson and his men, it dawned on me why Ping Lacson didn't receive money from *jueteng* lords.

The P15 million or so take from *jueteng* a month that Ping Lacson refused to receive is piait-piait compared to the hundreds of millions of pesos earned from drugs.

In turning down bribes from *jueteng*, Lacson was able to present a Mr. Clean image to the public.

By the way, the persons who claim to be knowledgeable about Lacson's illegal activities are willing to testify against the senator during the impending Senate inquiry.

Lagot ka, Ping!

More about Ping Lacson's and PAOCTF's illegal activities in this column in the coming days. *Abangan!*

* * *

By the way, Ping Lacson still goes home to his house at BF Homes in Parañaque, according to my source.

But his wife, Alice Hill-Lacson, now goes home to the millionaires' village at Ayala-Alabang, the source said.

***Magaling magtago ng kanyang kayamanan itong si* "Mr. Clean" Senator, *Kasing galing ng pagtago niya kay* Alice.**

* * *

Herminio Ponte, manager of Lirio Enterprises, which was featured in this space recently, said that the firm was not engaged in rice smuggling as alleged in this space July 24.

In a letter, Ponte said: "Lirio Enterprises is a salt trading company based in Manila. It is owned by only one of the Lim brothers you were mentioning. It is not engaged in rice smuggling. It does not own nine ships. Maybe you were referring to Lite Shipping, which is owned by the other brother. But it does not mean it is into rice smuggling. So, the owners of Lirio Enterprises are not the owners of Lite Shipping."

* * *

Calling all members of Class 1964 of the Divine Word University (formerly St. Paul's College) in Tacloban City.

The class will hold a grand reunion in Tacloban City next year.

For more details call Clarita Pelias-Veloso at 929-36-63 and Chit Roullo Elermos, 525-65-94, in Manila; Baltazar Apita, telephone 327-1063 and Otillo Crisostomo, 327-10-63, in Tacloban.

For more information visit website www.dwu Class 64 reunion.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 28, 2001
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	*Ex 24:3-8*
Gospel:	*Mt 13:24-30*

Jesus told his disciples another parable, "The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and left.

When the plants sprouted and produced grain, the weeds also appeared. Then the servants of the owner came to him and said: 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'

He answered them: 'This is the work of an enemy.' They asked him: 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' He told them: 'No, when you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. Let them just grow together until harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the workers: Pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them; then gather the wheat into my barn."

Commentary:

Today's reading addresses one of the major concerns of the early Christians which is represented here by the disciples who receive instructions from Jesus. From the very start these disciples had to face problems posed by malevolent people. They want to know how to react to the presence of these evil ones before the day of judgment. The temptation is to act immediately. Jesus understands their concern, but points at the danger of such actions since human judgment is rather imperfect. Serious damage may be done to the community. The ultimate judgment must be left to the Son of Man at the end of time. Only he is in the position to judge correctly.

Heavenly Father, in the vicissitudes of life we are prone to lose perspective. Grant us faith to accept reality in graciousness and leave the judgment to you.

***Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org** (Claretian Publications Inc.) & **http://missionaries.claret.org** (Claretians in the Philippines)*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (TORTS)—Due diligence of employer—Under Articles 2180 and 2176 of the Civil Code, owners and managers are responsible for damages caused by their employees. When an injury is caused by the negligence of a servant or an employee, the master or employer is presumed to be negligent either in the selection or in the supervision of that employee. This presumption may be overcome only by satisfactorily showing that the employer exercised the care and the diligence of a good father of a family in the selection and the supervision of its employee. The Court of Appeals said that allowing petitioner Pestaño to ply his route with a defective speedometer showed laxity on the part of petitioner Metro Cebu in the operation of its business and in the supervision of its employees. The negligence alluded to here is in its supervision over its driver, not in that which directly caused the accident. The fact that petitioner Pestaño was able to use a bus with a faulty speedometer shows that petitioner Metro Cebu was remiss in the supervision of its employees and in the proper care of its vehicles. It had thus failed to conduct its business with the diligence required by law. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Pestaño v. Spouses Sumayang, G.R. No. 139875, December 4, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Atienza shuts down Pasig River arrastre operations

By Jerome Aning

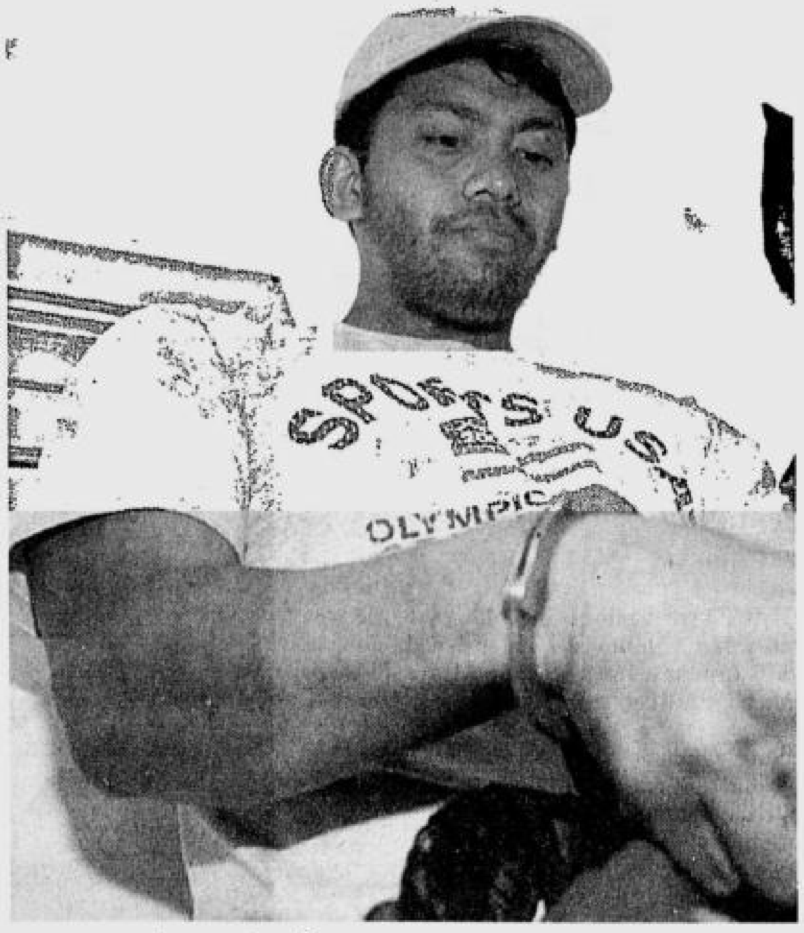
MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered the shutdown of arrastre or barge operations along the Pasig River in Intramuros, following complaints that the illegal loading and unloading of cargo had been causing traffic jams in the area.

The mayor's order was in response to mounting complaints that roads near the river bank just behind the Bureau of Immigration building have been turned into veritable parking areas for trucks loading or unloading cargo from the barges.

The riverbank behind the BI building has also deteriorated and is showing signs of erosion because of the heavy trucks, Atienza said.

"The Pasig cannot be used as a berthing place; cargo vessels and barges should load and unload their cargo in the Port Area," he told reporters during his weekly conference at the Hotel Pan-Pacific in Ermita.

The mayor said his office is also looking into reports that barges loading and unloading fuel oil, legal or otherwise, at the oil depot in Pandacan could be the cause of the gas leaks that affected the Polytechnic University of the Philippines campus and residential areas just across the river in Sta. Mesa.



MAIN suspect Alex Ilagan. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Tadao aide also a suspect

(From page A19)

He said that when he and the village watchers went to Hayashi's house, he did not go in because he was afraid of being implicated in the case.

He said he didn't want his fingerprints to be found in Hayashi's house.

"*Gabi pa lang kinutuban na talaga ako* (I was worried as early as the night before)," Clet said.

He denied that he was an opportunist and that he controlled Hayashi. He admitted that he sold Hayashi's van for P120,000 about two years ago, but he said Hayashi had asked him to do it.

He claimed he was not interested in Hayashi's bungalow and other properties.

Hayashi was trying to sell the bungalow for P2.3 million because he wanted to move to a condo unit in Quezon City, Clet added.

A ranking police officer said the Hayashi case is far from over even after Ilagan's arrest. The officer said Hayashi could have been killed for a "much deeper reason."

Ilagan was arrested by members of Task Force Tadao led by Insp. Marcelo Mariano after witness Reynaldo Ortillano claimed he saw Ilagan knocking at Hayashi's door on the night the musician was killed.

Police theorized that Ilagan killed Hayashi for refusing to give in to a demand. The suspect allegedly had a history of beating up his gay lovers whenever they failed to give him money.

Police said Ilagan also had scratches on his forearms and chest, which could be signs that Hayashi put up a fight when he was attacked.

Hayashi's remains were cremated and the ashes flown to Japan by his relatives on Thursday.

The relatives gave full authority to Caloocan police to file charges against Hayashi's suspected killer.

Ombudsman urged to probe Pasay City licensing officer

By Nelson F. Flores

THE CRUSADERS for Good Governance of Pasay City yesterday urged Ombudsman Aniano Disierto to investigate the city's chief licensing officer and her husband for alleged anomalous practices and involvement in a fixing syndicate operating in city hall.

Earlier, the National Bureau of Investigation uncovered the operation of a syndicate engaged in large-scale fraud involving the issuance of government business permits in Pasay City following the arrest of a suspect on Wednesday.

Rey Evangelista, CGGPC spokesperson, said the Ombudsman must investigate Amelita de la Cruz, Bureau of Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) chief of Pasay City, for allegedly allowing her husband Cresenciano de la Cruz to act as the office chief without proper authorization.

Evangelista said that reports reaching their organization showed that De la Cruz's husband has been acting as BPLO chief without the necessary appointment and has signed a number of documents in that capacity.

"What we know is that Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad earlier tried to have Mr. De la Cruz appointed BPLO chief but his appointment was rejected by the city council due to his age," Evangelista said. "So what the mayor did was to appoint his wife."

The Inquirer tried to contact the De la Cruz couple for their side but they could not be located at the BPLO office.

The NBI said the husband could be liable for usurpation of authority if it could be proven that he was acting as BPLO chief without authority.

The fixing syndicate was uncovered after NBI agents arrested on Wednesday Leo Francisco, a known fixer at the Pasay City Hall, following a complaint from businessman Edgardo Zapanta.

Francisco was caught in the act of accepting a P2,000 bribe from Zapanta who earlier filed a complaint with NBI that De la Cruz's husband had demanded grease money from him when he applied for a business permit.

In his complaint, Zapanta said that the P2,000 grease money was on top of the regular fee of P5,600. The grease money was supposed to be "for the boys" and for the immediate processing of his application.

Zapanta claimed that he was able to persuade De la Cruz to accept the payment for the regular fee and promised him that the grease money would come later.

But Zapanta immediately reported the incident to the NBI.

Elfren Meneses, NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division chief, said charges of indirect bribery and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act of the Philippines were already filed against Francisco and De la Cruz's husband before the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office.

Defiant
Defenders
SUNDAY
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE
July 29, 2001 Issue
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Lacson: Tulfo received P250,000 monthly from PNP

By Fe B. Zamora

INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo tops the list of columnists, commentators, editors and reporters receiving payola from the Philippine National Police when Panfilo "Ping" Lacson was its chief, Lacson said yesterday.

Lacson said the monthly payola totaled P1.6 to P1.8 million.

In an exclusive interview with INQ7.net, Lacson also accused Tulfo of collecting money from PNP provincial commanders. He said Tulfo even demanded arrears from officials who failed to turn in their monthly collection.

"Tulfo's take was very prominent because it was the biggest. I cannot forget it. Two hundred fifty thousand pesos a month," said Lacson in the interview.

The full transcript can be viewed at INQ7.net, the joint venture website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network (www.inq7.net).

Lacson said he had the payola scrapped in 1999 when he assumed the post of PNP chief.

"After that Tulfo started to criticize me bit by bit although I ignored it. And then there were more criticisms," he said.

Tulfo belied Lacson's claims. He said he had been praising Lacson for years, and had even suggested that Lacson run for president in 2004.

"The exposé is very recent. This is triggered by my realization that Ping Lacson was behind the Dacer killing. Lacson projects himself as Mr. Clean. In reality, he is into drugs, kidnapping, smuggling," Tulfo said.

In his column On Target, Tulfo accused Lacson of ordering the killing of his (Lacson's) wife's ex-husband in the late '70s and of stealing a Patek Philippe watch from a dead Chinese. Tulfo also said Lacson was addicted to killing.

Lacson said he met Tulfo in the '70s as a reporter covering the Metrocom. The friendship would continue to the '90s as they both rose in their respective professions.

"Mon was very supportive of me because he knew me. At least up to now, I think he knows me. He knows my character. Even when I was provincial director in Laguna, he knew I never received even a single centavo from *jueteng* operators. And he loved to write about it. He wrote about it several times," Lacson said.

"Tulfo knows because he has been asking for money from the provincial directors. But he couldn't get anything from me," Lacson said.

He said there were even instances when Tulfo collected "retroactive" payments.

"He told the official – you've been assigned to so many juicy positions. You've forgotten about me. At P10,000 a month, you owe me P120,000," Lacson said. The official, whom he did not identify, gave in because he was also on the take from the *jueteng* lords.

Lacson said he felt bad about Tulfo in 1998 when Director General Roberto Lastimoso was named chief PNP amid rumors that the appointment was going to be temporary. Lastimoso, who belongs to Class 1967 of the Philippine Military Academy, had sponsored Tulfo's adoption by the class.

Lacson said Tulfo asked him to reject any offers from President Estada to be chief of the PNP.

"He was that blunt. He probably had too much drink," Lacson said.

But Lacson said he could not possibly say no to the President "because he is the commander in chief." He said Tulfo insisted that "even if offered to me, I should refuse."

"For my part, I just let it go. I held my temper," Lacson said. A common friend would later tell Tulfo of his rude behavior, he said.

"Apparently, he didn't even know what he was saying that night," Lacson said.

When Lacson assumed the post of PNP chief in 1999, he was shown a long payola list.

"I said this is too much (money). I'll just give the money to the police," he said.

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JURASSIC PARK 3-P13 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:40	SWORDFISH - R18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	JURASSIC PARK 3-P13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

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Wycoco not afraid of probe

By Jerome Aning

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday welcomed Sen. Panfilo Lacson's subpoena which sought to open to scrutiny the NBI chief's service records at the Philippine National Police.

"If it will make him feel better, then it's okay," Wycoco said of Lacson's intention to examine his records.

In a news conference at NBI headquarters yesterday morning, Wycoco said he assumed his records would be used in the hearings of the Commission on Appointments, where he is up for confirmation.

Wycoco said he is not afraid of any investigation of his career as a policeman because he has nothing to hide.

But he added that Lacson is "grossly mistaken" if he thinks the NBI will stop its investigation of the involvement of several members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in many high-profile cases.

Among the cases are the Dacer-Corbito killings, the Bentain disappearance, the Kuratong Baleleng killings, the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila and the abduction and murders of ethnic Chinese and Hong Kong nationals.

Wycoco said Senator Lacson, through a staff member he identified only as Gana, has sent a letter demanding the NBI chief's PNP service records from Gen. Efren Fernandez, PNP director for personnel and records management.

The records are to be submitted to Lacson's office ostensibly for the purpose of ascertaining Wycoco's capability and competence as NBI director.

"If the good Senator thinks that the NBI will stop its investigations because of this inquiry, then I'm afraid he is grossly mistaken," Wycoco told reporters.

He refused to implicate Lacson in any of the crimes being investigated by the NBI. He merely said many of the lawmen connected with the defunct PAOCTF are "not yet off the hook" since the bureau still has to finish its investigations.

"We are doing this for the sake of justice and peace," Wycoco said. "This is not motivated by any other reason except to serve the ends of justice."

Lacson was former PNP chief and head of the PAOCTF, while Wycoco was the PNP deputy chief for administration. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Wycoco as NBI head after the January Edsa "People Power II" revolt that toppled President Joseph Estrada.

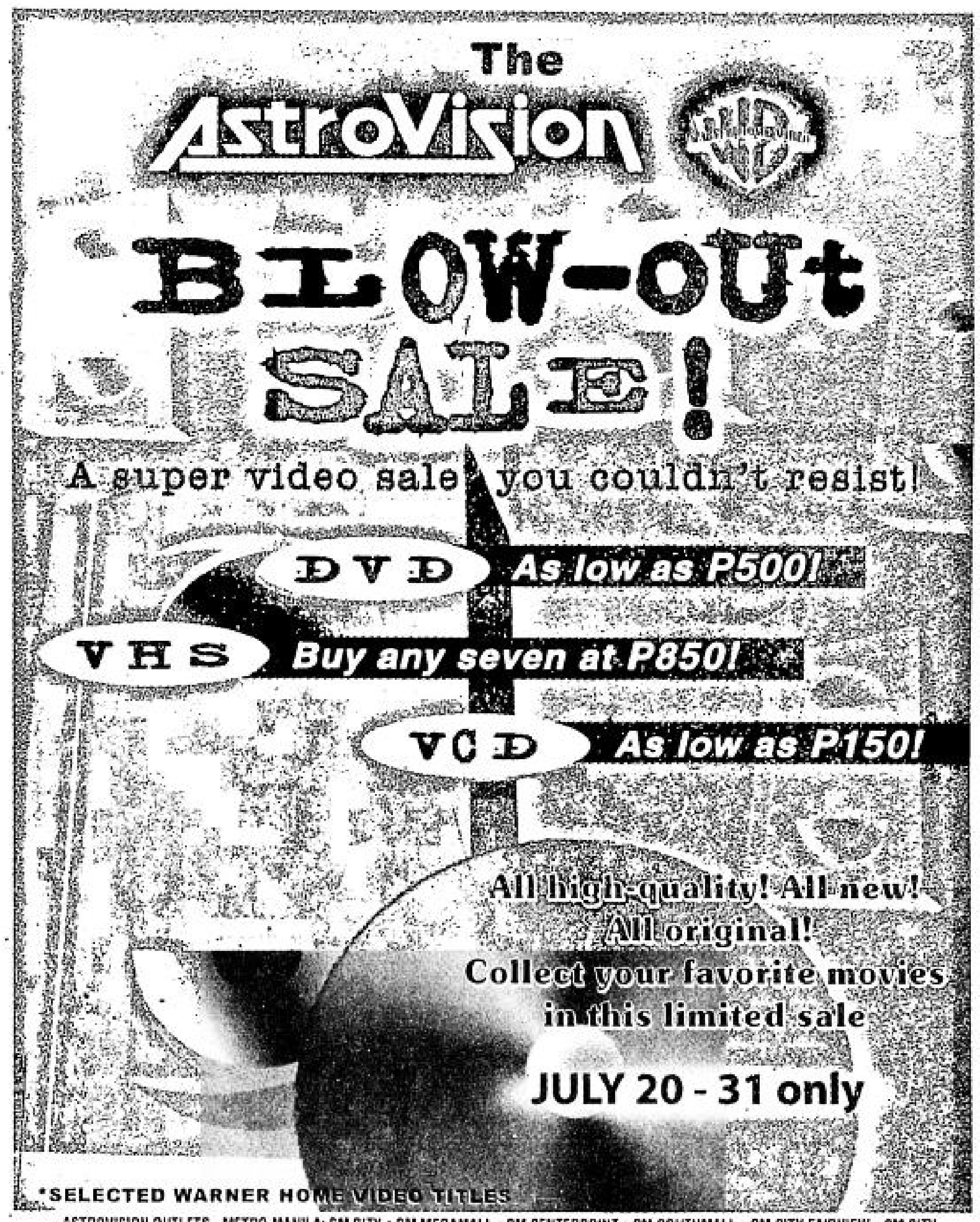
In a press statement, the NBI also accused opposition politicians of being behind the pressure on Macapagal appointees.

"Administration officials are now feeling the heat from the opposition," the statement said. "Threats of non-confirmation of appointed Cabinet members are flying thick and fast; even sub-Cabinet officials of the Macapagal administration are not being spared from the pressure."

Also present at the news conference to express support for Wycoco were leaders of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez said Wycoco "accomplished a lot" during his first seven months in office and that the NBI is in "good hands" under his leadership.

VACC vice president and spokesperson chair Lauro Vizconde said: "Let's keep NBI out of politics. Director Wycoco is doing well. He needs all our support."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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT #2250; SERIES OF 2001

SUSPECTED COURIERS CAPTURED
Akad Pakilan (left) and Banny Patas were arrested in a buy-bust operation at a fastfood restaurant in Old Sta. Mesa in Manila on Monday on suspicion that they were drug couriers. Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto (foreground) presented the two suspects to media people. VALHANDUMON

RTW trader loses P3M to robbers

GARMENT manufacturer Alfredo T. Angeles lost more than P3 million worth of jewelry to robbers who broke into his house in White Plains, Quezon City.

Angeles, 56, of 96 Whitefield St. in White Plains, Quezon City, was in the province with his wife when the theft was committed on Thursday, said investigator PO1 Gregorio Maramag of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

But police did not find any sign of forcible entry in the house, specifically in the master bedroom, where the jewelry was taken, Maramag said.

Police said the robbery happened between 7 a.m. Thursday after the Angeles couple left at 7 a.m. yesterday when the robbery was discovered.

Angeles' nephew Jun-jun discovered the theft when he went inside the master bedroom to get a lighter, police said.

Jun-jun told police he saw his uncle's jewelry cabinet ripped open and empty.

He said the main door to the house and the door to the master bedroom were usually left unlocked since relatives and other workers in the family's garment business would arrive late and would stay for the night. Only the gate was locked, Jun-jun said.

On Thursday, only the cook, Girlie Y. Soliman, was in the house from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Five other people, including Jun-jun, arrived after 8:30 p.m., police said.

They told police that they did not notice anything suspicious inside the Angeles home before the robbery was discovered.

Maramag said CPD's Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team, under Senior Insp. Rowena Gallardo, is checking the victim's residence to find out if the suspects left any evidence that might lead to their identities.

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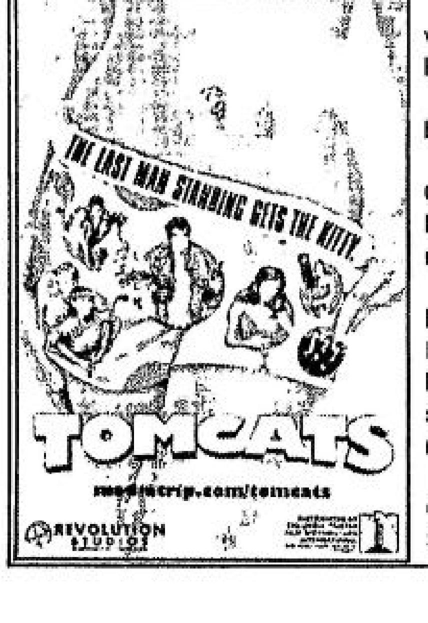
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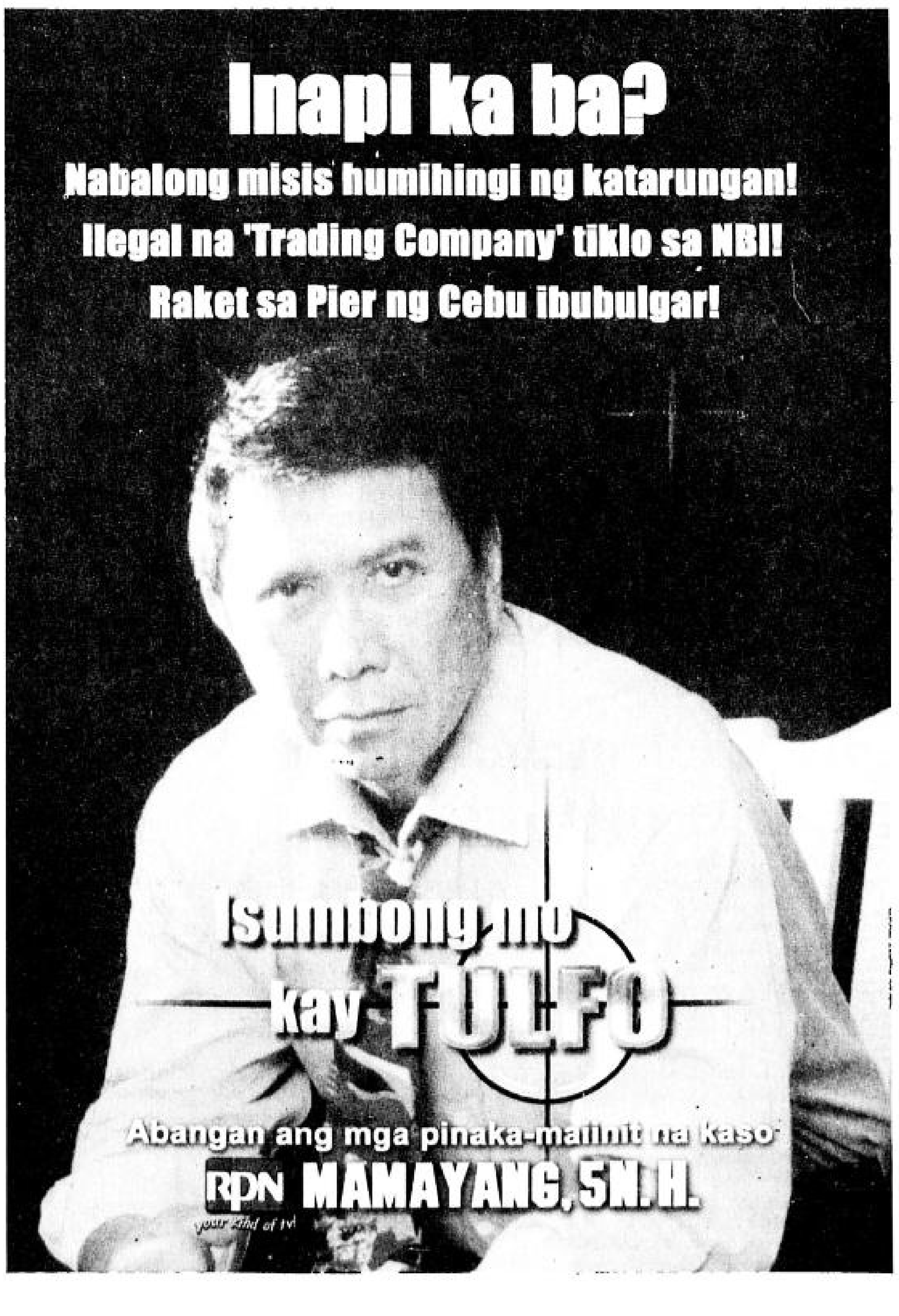
Introducing, the "Tomcats," tropa ng free-wheeling, sex-obsessed guys, na walang inatupag kung hindi maka-iskor at magbilang ng nobya.

Nagpustahan ang barkada – sino ang huling barako na di patatali sa pag-aasawa?

Matapos ang ilang taon, sina Michael (Jerry O'Connell ng JERRY MAGUIRE) at Kyle (Jake Busey ng STARSHIP TROOPERS) na lang ang natitirang bachelor sa grupo.

Upang manalo sa pusta, ise-set up ni Mike si Kyle with super-seductive Natalie (Shannon Elizabeth ng SCARY MOVIE, AMERICAN PIE). Nguni't di niya inaasahan na maiinlab din pala siya sa sexing dalaga. Manalo man siya sa pusta, maglalaho naman ang true love niya!

Silipin din sa hilarious sexy comedy from Columbia Pictures sina Playboy playmates Julia Schultz at Amber Smith. Rated R.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Random acts of kindness touch readers

By Mario Cornejo

A FEW weeks ago, I wrote an article about a man who helped me change a flat tire, and my attempts to pass this good deed on to others.

It was fun to write, I got to pretend like I was a superhero, and I told a few jokes that probably nobody laughed at. I sent it off to my editor, and he published it. All that was left was to wait for any feedback through my email.

End of story, right?

Except that the response was overwhelming.

My e-mailbox was filled, and for once not by porn sites hungry for my business. There were letters from people all over the world, thanks to the INQ7 website. Not just different countries; I got letters from four continents. And no, they weren't from my relatives.

My first reaction was surprise. Maybe it's just me, but I think every writer gets that weird feeling that nobody actually reads his stuff.

My next reaction was dismay, as I wondered how I would answer all this mail.

But after reading all things people had to say, more than anything else, I felt humbled.

Readers shared with me their thoughts and feelings. Some just wrote to thank me for brightening up their day. Others sent in suggestions for possible good deeds.

And a good many wrote to tell me their own stories, of how people helped them, and how they have helped others.

Like I said, very humbling indeed.

As I said to my mother, it seemed like I captured the "Chicken Soup" crowd. On any other occasion, I'd view this with disdain. After all, those books just aren't cool. But the letters I received were so heartfelt that all my instinctive cynicism just melted like ice cubes on Kim Basinger.

Samples

In my original article, I had written about how a guy named Jovic helped me out when I had car trouble, and many people wrote me telling me about their similar experiences. Apparently, this was a common occurrence, but some were absolute standouts.

Ms Frances Peria wrote about the time she was riding a bus, and the driver, conductor and several passengers went out and tried to push a stuck vehicle. When efforts to push the car failed, they actually *carried* the car to safety — and all this in the pouring rain.

Mr. J. Samonte told me about the time a group of children passed him and his overheating car. The kids then drove back with a newly bought container of cold mineral water, then just left quickly without asking for payment.

Many others wrote about different incidents on our roads, ranging from dead batteries to flat tires. A reader named Raymund Tang wrote describing a small, simple incident, with a traffic enforcer stopping the flow of cars to rescue a small kitten.

But the stories weren't primarily vehicular in nature.

A life of kindness

One young woman, who did not want to be named, wrote about her family, who adopted a child from the streets and raised him pretty much as a brother, though they were far from rich themselves. Today they work in the same company, and still look out for each other.

Another woman, now in her seventies, wrote me through snail mail after obtaining my home address. Her handwritten letter describes a lifetime of good deeds, helping those less fortunate than her. She recounted numerous stories of how she made kindness and charity a daily habit, and touched so many lives around her.

Ms Angie Salanio wrote to tell me how she and her friends are also consciously doing acts of kindness, individually and as a group. In addition, she pointed me to www.kindness.com, which is a site devoted to the same.

I learned that there are actually organized groups that meet and discuss their simple acts of goodness.

These stories and countless others helped renew my faith in my fellow man. But some readers touched me in other ways too. Get your mind out of that gutter, you pervert.

Touch me

For example, so many Filipinos abroad who read the article on the Web said how reading it reminded them about what they love about the Philippines, and what they miss about their country and their people.

Others said that they were inspired enough to try and do a good deed or two right after reading the article. That was flattering beyond belief.

Quite a few readers wrote just to say thank you for lightening up their daily morning reading. Considering that the usual newspaper fare is pretty depressing, I guess people appreciated a little levity.

And some readers wrote advising myself and anyone who has intentions of doing good deeds for strangers to Please Be Careful. I had to smile, not because I take their warnings lightly, but because I am so moved by their concern.

And they do have a right to be concerned. While this city is revealing its good side to me more and more everyday, there are cases where kindness is abused and exploited.

One reader wrote of an act of random violence, where out of the blue he was attacked for no apparent reason. Another wrote of an incident where a man lent his jack to help someone with a flat, and the man took off with the jack.

But even these stories are useful, and were sent in a spirit of warning, not deterrence. And I have to agree with them, Please Be Careful.

On the whole, I think people are ready, even aching, to do some good, or at least hear about it. Being jaded and cynical can get tiring after a while, I guess.

But as people have pointed out to me, we don't have to go out looking for opportunities, they are often all around us. My dressing up as a superhero and patrolling the streets was unnecessary and unfruitful, primarily because I was forcing it. Just by going about my normal routine, but with my eyes wide open, I see countless good deeds waiting to happen. It's funny how much you find if you're on the lookout for it.

So thanks to everyone who wrote. You all made my month. Except for that one negative letter guy. You know who you are.

And for those who wrote auditioning for the sidekick role, I'm sorry, but I wasn't really serious about that. It was one of those jokes that nobody got.

Ateneo debate team wins int'l contest

THE ATENEO de Manila Debate Society recently won the title of Best Asian Team in the Australian Debate Championships, a week-long tournament hosted by Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

The Ateneo team was composed of William Panlilio, a fourth year Philosophy major; Bobby Benedicto, a sophomore in Political Science; and Madie Dy, a sophomore majoring in Management Engineering.

After seven grueling debates, the three undergraduates emerged as one of the top four teams in the category English as a Second Language.

They defeated Chulalongkorn University of Thailand in the semifinals and the National University of Singapore in the final round to win the coveted title.

This is the first time that a Filipino team has won the Australian ESL Championship.

The Ateneo team was ranked 13th out of 84 teams from all over Australia, New Zealand and Asia, making them the youngest Philippine team in history to make it to the top 16 of the Australian championship.

On their way to the final rounds, the team faced debaters from schools such as the University of New South Wales, Monash University and Sydney University, to name a few..

This victory adds another title to the list of accomplishments of the Ateneo Debate Society (ADS). Panlilio and Benedicto also won the World English as Second Language Championship in Glasgow, Scotland. Panlilio is currently the number-one ranked debater in the entire Philippines. Benedicto is the reigning national champion.

All three members of the team also participated in the 8th All Asian Inter-varsity Championship in May where the Ateneo de Manila University placed in the top four of the entire Asian region for the seventh consecutive year.

WINNERS ALL. (from left) Bobby Benedicto, Medeleine Dy and William Panlilio of the Ateneo debating team.

Marikina shoe industry dying, warns solon

By Rocky Nazareno

THE MARIKINA shoe industry is dying.

Local shoemakers face competition over a dwindling supply of raw hide from foreign buyers, who have been snapping up the limited supply of raw hide, said Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman in his speech before the 20th Asian Footwear Conference at Edsa Shangri-La.

''I am deeply disturbed at the disclosure of the leather industry that that several countries are now buying our limited supply of raw hide, using local surrogate buyers, at prices that local tanneries cannot match,'' De Guzman said.

He warned that the ''situation, if not urgently addressed, would lead to the possible closure of tannery firms which, in turn, would have a domino effect on the shoe industry and other industries dependent on local leather.''

De Guzman noted that ''to replace the volume of raw hides lost through uncontrolled exportation, the country has to import $117.6 million or the equivalent of P5.645 billion annually, which is a huge drain on our foreign exchange earnings.''

He said a ban on the export of raw hides, animal skins and semi-processed leather is needed to address this problem.

''Though temporary in character this export ban may not sit well with commitments under the GATT-WTO,'' he said.

He said other countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have already imposed a similar ban on the exportation of leather to protect their shoemaking and leather industries.

He cited India as having banned even the importation of finished leather products.

''The shoe industry used to be our source of national pride. It must be revived and further developed for it to serve well the needs of our people and become globally competitive,'' De Guzman said.

RESCUE 1226

San Juan forms disaster response group

SAN JUAN town is now better equipped to cope with typhoons, floods and other natural and man-made disasters, according to Mayor JV Ejercito.

The young mayor pointed this out following the formal launching of his brainchild, Rescue 1226, San Juan's disaster quick response unit. It is one of the major branches of the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council, chaired by Ejercito himself.

"I am pleased that Rescue 1226 was finally realized early on in my term," Ejercito said.

He said Rescue 1226 was necessary since San Juan is prone to floods and fires, which last year affected many residents.

During the launch, simulation exercises were conducted at the municipal hall grounds using equipment from the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Fire Protection and the San Juan Medical Center. A terrorist attack and bombing/fire situation were enacted at the San Juan municipal annex building, and a step-by-step rescue procedure was shown, including a demonstration of how the area could be secured.

Also conducted were a fire management drill, first-aid exercises, one-person rescues (OPRs) and rappelling.

The launch showcased the competence of Rescue 1226's component agencies: the Office of the Mayor, Department of Health, PNP-SWAT, Barangay Operations Center, Bureau of Fire Protection, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Peace, Order and Safety Office (Poso), Commission on Population (Popcom) and the Barangay Health Workers and Engineering Department.

Dr. Jesus Esteban P. Olano was team leader and Councilor Clemente P. Bargas was head coordinator of the operating teams.

Rescue 1226 is supported by the offices of the local government, municipal health, municipal treasury, NCR Office of the Civic Defense and STOPDEATH.

Jimmy Dacamante, assistant head of the Makati Rescue, was a guest in behalf of Makati Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay, head of Makati Rescue. The Makati group trained and assisted the San Juan team in preparing for the rescue operations.

Makati's electronic library system opens

THE MAKATI City government, through the Makati Schools Division, will soon operate computer-based library systems, or electronic library, in selected public schools in the city.

Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay yesterday said the electronic library, to be called Knowledge Activity Center or K-ACT, will be fully operational in August in 10 public elementary and high schools.

Binay said the K-ACT features a computer system that will be linked to the city government website, other Makati public schools, and the Internet. It will also have an electronic cataloguing of all books and reference materials found in the libraries, and CD-based references.

Binay said all Makati public school students can use the K-ACT facility for free. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

"We expect the K-ACT to help hone the intellectual skills of our students," he said.

The K-ACT schools include the Makati High School, Makati Science High School, Fort Bonifacio High School, Benigno Aquino High School, Makati Elementary School, Rizal Elementary School, Pio del Pilar Elementary School, F. Benitez Elementary School, Nemesio Yabut Elementary School and Palanan Elementary School.

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74 seized, abandoned vehicles up for bidding

CUSTOMS Commissioner Titus Villanueva ordered Customs officials in charge of public auction to prepare 74 seized and abandoned motor vehicles for public bidding starting July 31, 2001.

The 74 vehicles are among more than 300 vehicles that have accumulated during the past three or more years in the yards of the Port of Manila and the International Container Port. They are awaiting finalization of the legal procedures that will declare them government property prior to their proper disposal.

To be sold are several Mercedes Benzes, Mitsubishis, Hyundais, Daewoos, Bestas, Nissans, a few BMWs, Volvos, Hondas, one or two Toyotas, Opels, a Plymouth, Chevrolet, Ford Aerostar, Accura Integra, Ford Explorer, GMC Van, Dodge Caravan, Volks Vanagon, Isuzu Trooper, and others.

The conditions of the cars to be sold have been assessed and evaluated by experts from the private sector·represented by the Philippine Motors Association and the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers Association of the Philippines.

Those interested to participate in the public bidding may view the cars at the PMA's security yard at 387 P. Guevarra Street in San Juan. The actual auction, to be conducted by the officials of the bureau's Auction and Disposal Division, will take place at PMA headquarters at 683 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City.

A total of 66 cars have been sold since Villanueva took over Customs early this year. With the sale of the batch of 74, the bureau will have a record of about 140 cars sold in seven months.

CYNTHIA AND CO-OPS

Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar (extreme right) inducts into office the new set of officers of the city's Lingap Cooperative. Villar lauded the cooperative's efforts in improving the lives of the poor through livelihood and skills enhancement programs and services.

Las Piñas upgrades flood control

LAS PIÑAS Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar yesterday said the city's flood control system has been improved with the installation and improvement of the drainage system in 20 barangays.

The installation project covers barangays CAA, Ilaya, Manuyo II, Pamplona III, Pilar, Talon 1, Talon II, Talon III, Pulanglupa II, Zapote and Almanza. The repair of drainage systems is ongoing in nine other barangays.

Aguilar said the improvement of the drainage system spared the low-lying communities of flooding despite the heavy downpour that hit Metro Manila recently.

He said the declogging of canals and desilting of rivers and creeks are also being conducted regularly and the city's 200 'Bantay-Ilog'' volunteers are mobilized in protecting the rivers from being used as garbage dumps.

A committee, also known as the segregation, recycling and composting committee or Segrecom, is tasked to implement the waste reduction campaign to achieve the city government's zero-waste target.

Caloocan employee gets 3 life terms for raping daughter

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CALOOCAN City hall employee was sentenced to three life terms for repeatedly raping for a year his common-law wife's 7-year-old daughter.

Judge Silvestre Bello Jr. found Francisco Lagahit guilty of raping the girl thrice between 1995 and Oct. 17, 1996.

Bello ordered the convicted rapist to pay the victim P300,000 in damages.

The court could have sentenced Lagahit to death had the prosecution proven that he was married to the victim's mother.

Lagahit was a member of the Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management, which is under the city hall.

The victim, now 12, was raped whenever her mother was working. Lagahit often asked the girl's siblings to play outside so he could rape her in their house in Maypajo, Caloocan.

The mother, however, even hurt her daughter whenever the girl complained of the rapes, court records showed.

The girl asked help from an aunt, who accompanied her to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Police arrested Lagahit after medical records showed that the girl was indeed raped on several occasions.

During court proceedings, Lagahit denied raping the girl. He claimed that relatives coerced the girl into filing charges against him since they were against his relationship with the girl's mother.

2 nabbed for 1998 killing

By Jerome Aning

TWO suspects in the grisly killing of a 21-year-old student in 1998 were arrested by National Bureau of Investigation agents in General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite on Thursday.

The suspects were identified by NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco as farmer Roberto Cortez, 34, a resident of 11 Antonio St., Batas, Silang, Cavite; and carpenter Ruben Martinez, 45, of Kuta Sur, Malvar, Batangas and 291 Ivory St., Barangay Memije, GMA.

Cortez was tagged as the one who burned and buried the body of victim Jericho Jereza while Martinez was allegedly among those who transferred the corpse to an undisclosed place.

The arrest of Cortez and Martinez brought to four the number of suspects arrested by the police. Among those arrested earlier by the police were Barangay Maderan, GMA chair Victor Serwelas, and his son Anthony.

Another suspect, Victor's brother Jose, chair of Barangay Old Bulihan in Silang, was also arrested by the NBI agents but he was able to post bail.

Other suspects at large are Ireneo Serwelas, Todel Gleponio, Rany Berlin, and Victor Bernardino.

Jereza's father Enrique said the killing stemmed from a heated argument between his son and Anthony during a birthday party held on Nov. 15, 1998 at the basketball court in Maderan.

Enrique recounted that Anthony became mad at Jereza because a girl chose to dance with his son instead of with Anthony.

Later in the night, Anthony and several men stormed the party, abducted Jereza and beat him up. The suspects then loaded the handcuffed student to a barangay patrol car.

Witnesses later appeared and led the police to an empty grave at the Bulihan Cemetery on Nov. 26, where portions of Jereza's body and clothing were recovered.

Forensics examination showed that the student's body was burned in the grave, was buried, exhumed after a few days, chopped to pieces, then burned again and transferred to an undisclosed place.

Wycoco said that on July 25, the NBI received word that Cortez and Martinez were seen roaming around Bulihan. An operation was launched on Thursday and resulted in the suspect's apprehension.

Three girls arrested for having 'fun' in store

FOR WANTING to have "fun," three high school girls were arrested Thursday afternoon while trying to smuggle out bags and a notebook from a department store in Mandaluyong City.

The trio, whose ages range from 14 to 16, were detained at the city jail and were facing theft charges.

PO3 Julius Pinera, case investigator, said the students were enrolled at the Rosario High School and Rizal High School Annex in Pasig City.

Reports showed that the three girls, one of whom was still in her school uniform, entered one of the booths inside the SM Megamall along Edsa about 5 p.m.

The teeners went in different directions, with one of them taking a notebook from the school supplies stall. Not knowing that their actions were being followed, all three girls proceeded to the second floor where they took three handbags with the same color and design.

When they were about to leave the store, in-house detective Victor Dumelod, 25, from the Combined Security Agency, nabbed them. *A. Donato*

Moonlighting cop corrects face-off story

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA policeman moonlighting as a taxi driver who sued five National Bureau of Investigation agents last month for allegedly beating him up when he refused to convey them claimed yesterday that the men did not brag being NBI agents nor belittled him because he was just a policeman.

PO3 Joseph Abraham, 36, of the Western Police District's tactical operations center, said the NBI agents did not say, "*Pulis ka lang*, NBI *kami* (You're just a policemen, we're NBI agents)," during their confrontation.

"The quote was wrongfully ascribed to me but I never even mentioned it, not even in my formal affidavit," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

The erroneously ascribed quote has reportedly caused ill feelings between WPD officers and NBI agents, hampering their cooperation in fighting crime and law enforcement.

The policeman and NBI agents Leodegario del Rosario, Orlando Enriquez, Allan Linot, Flor Resurreccion have agreed to negotiate an off-court settlement of the cases they filed against each other, reportedly upon the encouragement of their superiors.

PO3 Abraham said he did become mad at the agents, all from the NBI's anti-illegal recruitment division, because they tried to arrest him for refusing to convey them in his cab (UJT-125) on the night of May 23. He said he told the agents, who wanted to go to Quezon City, that he would no longer be taking passengers because he was going to work.

He said that during the confrontation, which took place at the corner of Cabildo and Soriano streets in Intramuros, two of the agents even slapped him with an NBI ID card. He said he pulled out his service firearm to defend himself, causing the agents to scamper.

But the duo returned minutes later with five companions, two of them still unidentified, and ganged up on him.

A Marine stationed at the nearby Commission on Elections, as well as other WPD men called by the policeman, later arrived at the scene and intervened.

Two days later, PO3 Abraham filed a charge of physical injuries against the agents, who retaliated by charging the policeman with violation of the Comelec-imposed gun ban then in effect, resisting arrest, and failure to convey passenger in violation of taxi transportation regulations.

Man tries to pass off fake peso bills

POLICE arrested on Thursday morning a 28-year-old college student and messenger who allegedly tried to pass off two fake P1,000 bills at a post office in San Juan.

The suspect was identified as Ray Anthony Golez, of 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City, a messenger of the AXA Insurance Agency. He will be charged with possession of the two counterfeit bills.

But Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, said he and his men were still determining if the insurance company for which Golez was working knew about the fake bills taken from suspect.

Guiez denied knowing that the bills were fake.

Investigation showed that Golez went to the Greenhills Post Office at 9:35 a.m. Thursday and told teller Charito Gavarra he wanted to place a money order.

After filling out a form, Golez handed over seven P2,000 bills and two P500 bills to Gavarra.

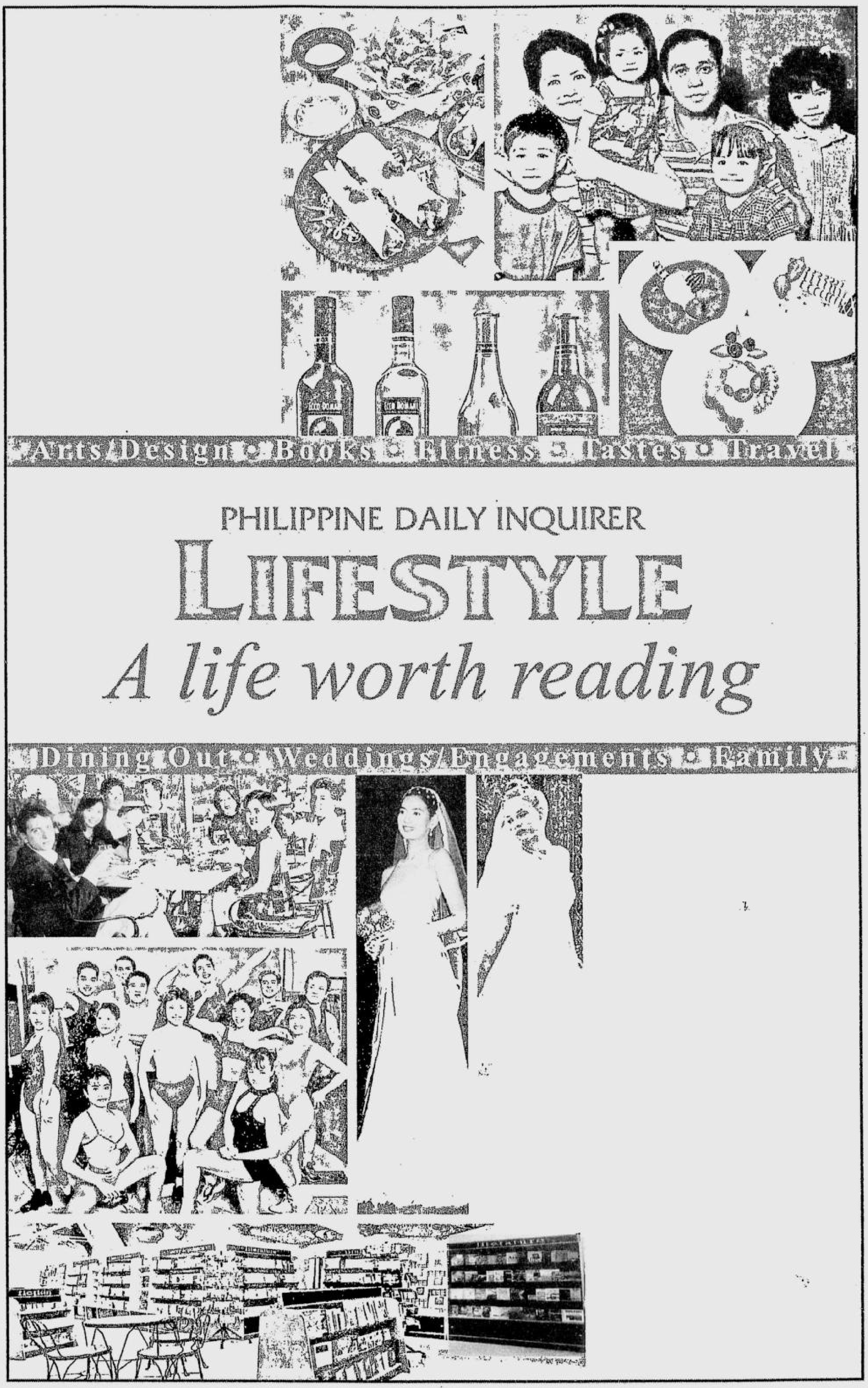
But when the teller closely inspected the bills, she found out that the color and size of two of the bills were different from the genuine currency.

Gavarra alerted police, which led to Golez's arrest.

De Gracia said syndicates spreading the fake bills usually cleared the money through the post office. The recipient would later give the money back to the group to finance legitimate business projects.

The police official, who worked as director for legal affairs of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime in Camp Crame, said this method of money laundering was also being done in other countries.

"We have to have money laundering law now in order to thwart this kind of economic sabotage," De Gracia said. *Agnes E. Donato*



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1 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	TOM CATS
4	BAGANSYA
5	NAG-AAPOY..

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	BAGANSYA
3	NAG-AAPOY...
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	MAHAL KITA...

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAGANSYA
2	NAG-AAPOY...
3	JURASSIC PARK 3

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	JURASSIC PARK 3.
2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	
3	BAGANSYA
4	JURASSIC PARK 3

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	DRIVEN
2	DUNGEONS
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SWORDFISH
2 (DTS)	DUNGEONS
3 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	DRIVEN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	DRIVEN
2 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PANGAKO
2	SWORD FISH
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3 .
2	UNANG TIBOK
3	NAG-AAPOY...
4 (DTS)	BAGANSYA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	DRIVEN
3 (DTS)	SWORDFISH
4	COMMAND AND CONQUER
5	DUNGEONS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JURASSIC PARK 3 .
2	DUNGEONS
3	DRIVEN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	DUNGEONS
3	DRIVEN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	PANGAKO...
3	AMORSEKO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	DUNGEONS.
3	COMMAND AND CONQUER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	DUNGEONS
2 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	JURASSIC PARK 3

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PARU PARO
2	JURASSIC PARK 3.
3	ACCIDENTALSPY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	DRIVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	ALONG CAME...
4 (DTS ES)	JURASSIC PARK 3

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3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	SWORDFISH
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	JURASSIC PARK-3
7	TOMCATS
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	DRIVEN'
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	SWORDFISH
7	JURASSIC PARK-3

IMUS
(045) 471-8186

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	DRIVEN
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	JURASSIC PARK-3
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	TOM CATS

NOVALICHES
938-7243

1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	ROMEO MUST.../PROOF OF...
4	SWORD FISH
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	FINAL FANTASY
7	JURASSIC PARK-3
8	DR. DO LITTLE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	JURASSIC PARK-3
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	SWORD FISH
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6	ATLANTA

SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAGANSYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DR. DOLITTLE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT/EYES WHITE SHOOT
ODEON	JURASSIC PARK 3
ODEON-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
ROBEN	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-1	UNANG TIBOK
TANDEM-2	AMORSEKO
TIMES	EXIT WOUNDS/MEXICAN

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
QUEZON-1	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-2	SWORDFISH

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MAHAL KITA KAHIT...
CINEMA-2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-3	BAGANSYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	PARO PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	DRIVEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	TOM CATS
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	DR. DOLITTLE-2
CINEMA-2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK-3
CINEMA-4	JURASSIC PARK-3
CINEMA-5	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-6	JURASSIC PARK-3

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	JULIETA
CINEMA-2	NANANABIK
CINEMA-4	SCARED

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	TOROTOT
CINEMA-2	KAKAIBANG KARISMA
CINEMA-4	ISA LAMANG ANG DAPAT MAHALIN

Coastal road extension to speed up Cavite growth

THE 11.4-kilometer extension of the Manila-Cavite coastal road, from Zapote to Kawit and from Kawit to Noveleta, which is now the object of hectic planning and preparations, will hasten the economic and social development of Cavite.

The Coastal Road Corporation (CRC) under businessman Luis J. L. Virata, in partnership with the Public Estates Authority (PEA), conceived the road extension project to be the most modern highway in the Philippines.

At present the existing 6.6-kilometer coastal road stretches from the end of Roxas Boulevard in Parañaque City up to Zapote in Las Piñas.

CRC plans to start the two-lane road extension from Zapote to Binakayan. It will run southwest, crossing Kaingin River and will continue along the coastline of Bacoor Bay.

The road will turn inland toward Binakayan, crossing the Imus River and passing over the General Tirona Highway. The expressway will then proceed southwest until it connects with the Noveleta Diversion road.

Construction of the coastal road extension will include a new dual two-lane asphalt-concrete carriageway with a25-meter concrete hard shoulder from Bacoor to Noveleta; an interchange in Zapote and another interchange in Kawit; a toll plaza and new toll collection facilities.

The highway will be fully landscaped and will sport highly visible traffic road signs.

CRC is now working out the P4.1-billion financing requirement with foreign financial institutions.

Funds are expected to become available in 2002, when construction will start immediately.

When completed, travel time from Manila to Noveleta will be greatly reduced; values of real estate properties throughout Cavite will rise; sales revenues by local restaurants and resorts will increase, and the province will become a favored tourist destination.

Motorists will have at their disposal state-of-the-art electronic devices and the latest road features.

Travellers can also look forward to safe, secure and practically accident-free conditions similar to modern highways in the United States.

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JURASSIC PARK III

ACTION-ADVENTURE-SUSPENSE STARRING SAM NEILL, WILLIAM H. MACY, TEA LEONI, ALLESSANDRO NIVOLA, TRAVOR MORGAN AND MICHAEL JETER - PG-13 - RT-1:30

July 28-Saturday

1:30-PM JURASSIC PARK 3
3:40-PM JURASSIC PARK 3
5:50-PM closed (LRP Foundation
8:00 PM-JURASSIC PARK 3
10:10 PM-JURASSIC PARK 3

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

I-TEXT MO KAY MAYOR SOLY EUSEBIO
EUSEBIO QUADRANGLE
PARA SA INYONG MGA PUNA
MUNGKAHI, "I-TEXT LAMANG
SCE TEXT CENTER
0919 456 9403
0919 456 9404
ISANG "BILIS TUGON
Mayor Soly Eusebio

PASIG Mayor Soly Eusebio greets well-wishers during the launch of her "I-text Mo sa Mayor" project.

Youth charged with abusing ex-mayor's niece

THE suspect in the rape of the niece of a former mayor of a Metro Manila town was arrested Thursday morning as he was about to board a flight for Canada at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Kershley Jimenez, of 2-C Scout Santos St., Sta. Ana, Pateros, was with his sister Catherine when he was arrested before he could board a Northwest Airlines flight bound for Canada about 8:30 a.m. Thursday, police said.

Rape charges also had been filed against Jimenez before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office.

The victim's mother and a team of Pateros policemen rushed to the airport and alerted the Aviation Security Group-Philippine National Police (ASG-PNP) about Jimenez's plan to flee the country.

Investigation showed that the ex-mayor's 18-year-old niece attended a party at Jimenez's residence on July 21, according to SP03 Francisco Sioco, Pateros police investigator.

During the party, the victim said Jimenez dragged her into a room and then raped her.

Residents can now 'text' Pasig mayor

NOW Pasaig City residents can send text messages to their mayor directly.

The city government recently launched the project "I-text mo kay Mayor Soly Eusebio," at the M. Eusebio Quadrangle in Pasig City.

Eusebio said the project was in line with her policy to bring her administration closer to the people.

She said the primary aim of the project is to give her constituents a direct line of communication to air their concerns, issues, problems and suggestions.

"I want to hear the needs and complaints of my constituents directly so we can take immediate action to correct it," Eusebio said.

Five lines from network giants Globe Telecom and Smart Telecom will be opened to the public where they can send their messages directly.

For Smart subscribers they can text the Mayor at 0919-456-9403 and 0919-456-9404.

Subscribers of Globe Telecom can relay their messages through 0916-330-9412, 0916-330-9413 and 0916-326-4946.

All text messages will be considered confidential.

"The Philippines is considered to be the text capital of the world, based on the thousands of messages processed everyday by these network giants," Eusebio said. "Almost everybody has (a cellular phone) so it is the most convenient and fastest way of relaying their complaints to me."

Problems such as busted streetlights, open manholes, clogged canals, and even those related to criminal activities, will be entertained in this messaging center.

"All reports will be counter-checked for veracity before we can take appropriate action," the mayor said.

"So we are warning pranksters to stay away from our lines and give way to valid and sensible messages which can help the community and our beloved Pasigueños to live in a better, cleaner, safer, and more progressive city."

Dump truck crushes boy to death

BY JEROME ANING

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Ryan Paul Caja was crushed to death when he was run over by a maneuvering garbage truck in Tondo, Manila on Wednesday night.

Caja, a resident of Unit 9, Building 1, Katuparan Street, Vitas, died on the spot while the unidentified driver of the truck (WUN-780) escaped after the incident.

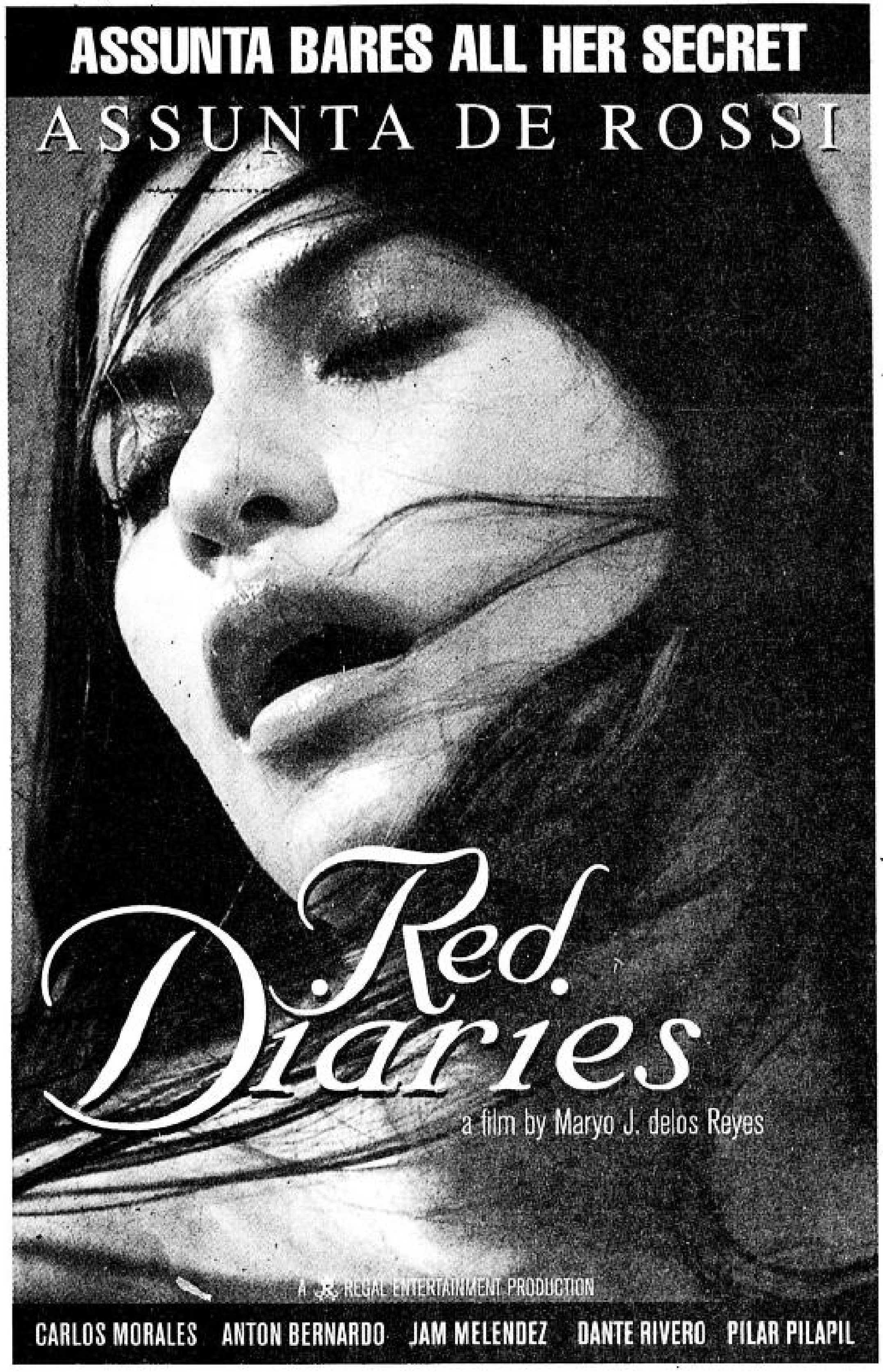
SPO3 George Domingo of the city traffic police said Caja and other boys were playing on Radial Road 10 about 10:30 p.m. when the truck arrived and began maneuvering inside the alley.

Apparently, the suspect did not see the children when he made a sudden turn. Caja, who failed to get out of the truck's path on time, was rolled over by the vehicles massive wheels.

Children interviewed by the police said the driver alighted from the truck, took one look at the dead boy and fled, abandoning the vehicle on the road.

The suspect is facing a charge of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

GRAND OPENING - TUESDAY JULY 31!
MALL TOUR-JULY 31, 2001 SM-MANILA - 11:00AM SM CENTERPOINT-1:00PM
SM NORTH 3:00PM SM FAIRVIEW 5:00PM SM MEGA - 7:00PM
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


ASSUNTA BARES ALL HER SECRET
ASSUNTA DE ROSSI
Red Diaries
a film by Maryo J. delos Reyes
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION
CARLOS MORALES
ANTON BERNARDO
JAM MELENDEZ
DANTE RIVERO
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GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)
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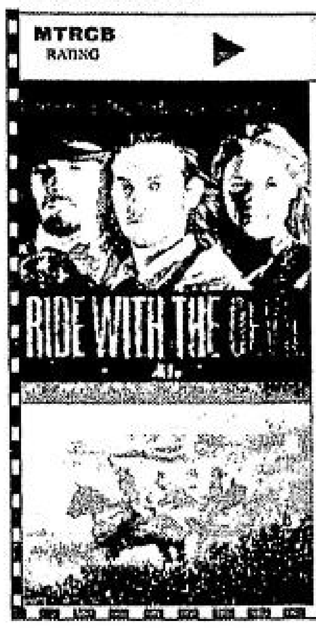
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


RIDE WITH THE DEVIL

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"
RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE
IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH,
YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY...
YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.
SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT
Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

FOURTH WEEK
HYPER-ELECTRIFYING ACTION
THAT'S HOTTER THAN BURSTING FLAMES !
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

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Log on.
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COMBAT INSTRUCTOR MASTER IN KUNG-FU
AGENT LOU
HUMAN RELATIONS SPECIALIST
AGENT PEEK
WORLD CLASS ELECTRONICS EXPERT
AGENT SAM
EXPERT IN ARTILLERY

The Canine Intelligence Service needs your help and is offering rewards for any information that leads to the apprehension of several armed and dangerous known mad-cats who are plotting to take over the world.

FIND THESE WANTED MAD-CATS

MR. TINKLES
LEADER OF MAD-CATS
NINJA
FIERCE MARTIAL ARTS FIGHTER
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DIEMITRI
EXPERT IN PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES

AND REWARDS AWAIT YOU!!

Follow these ultra-secret steps to get your hands on cool premium items!
Step 1. Look for any photos of mad-cats in cinemas lobbies, malls and major roads.
Step 2. Fill-out this form completely and fax to 521-2673. Only the first 6 valid/correct entry address to AGENT BUTCH: will win T-shirt, to AGENT LOU: will win a cap, to AGENT PEEK: will win a frisbee and to AGENT SAM: will win a pair of movie passes. So be quick and fax it now!
Attention: Agent____________(name of your favorite canine agent)
I spotted a mad-cat at: ______________
(indicate the name of mall or cinema or poster-billboard location)
Confidential information: Name:______________________Phone:_____________Email:____________
Step 3. Wait for the Canine Agents to call you! They will give you instructions on claiming your prize. Only 1 person from a household can win. A person can only win once.
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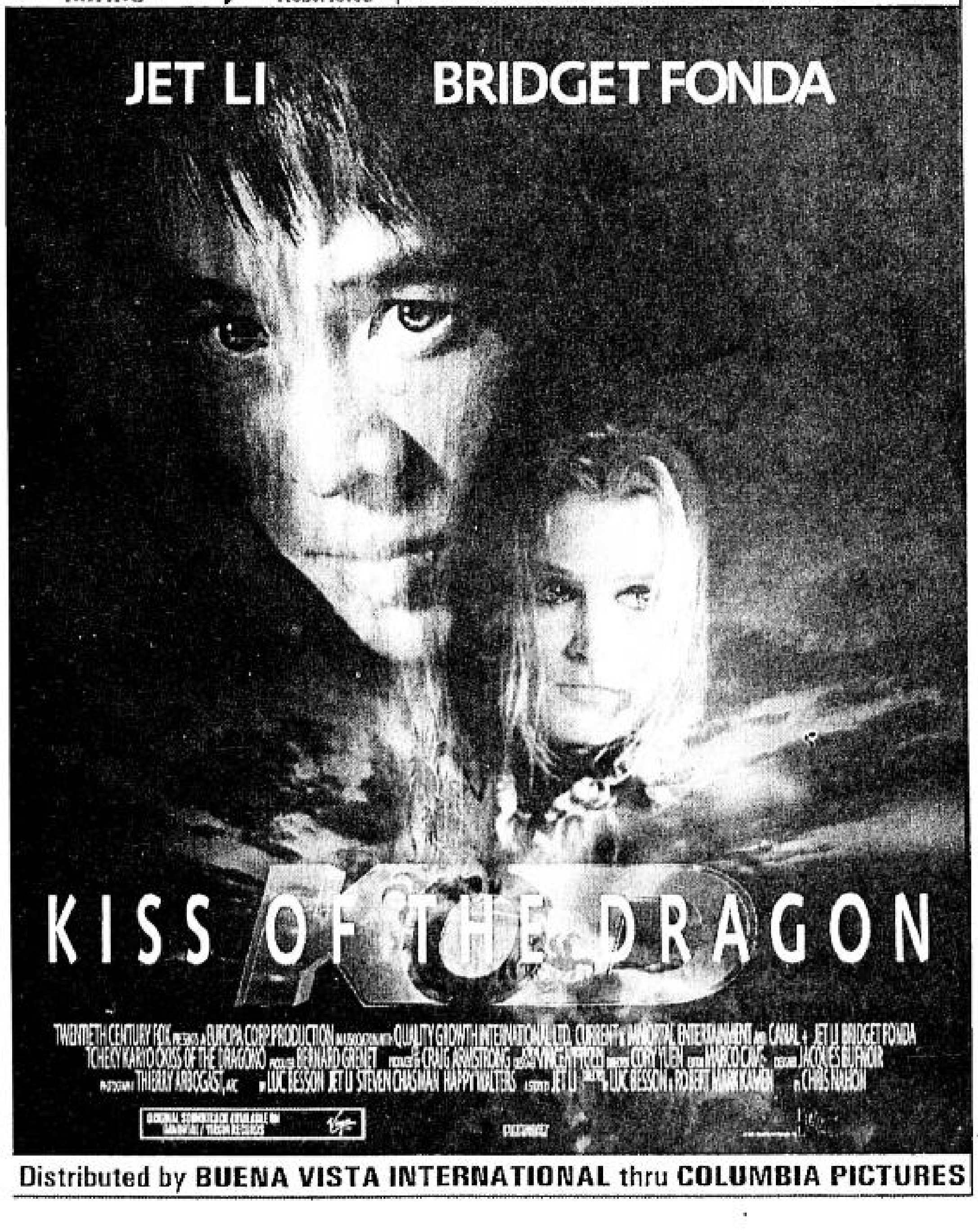
JET LI
BRIDGET FONDA
KISS OF THE DRAGON

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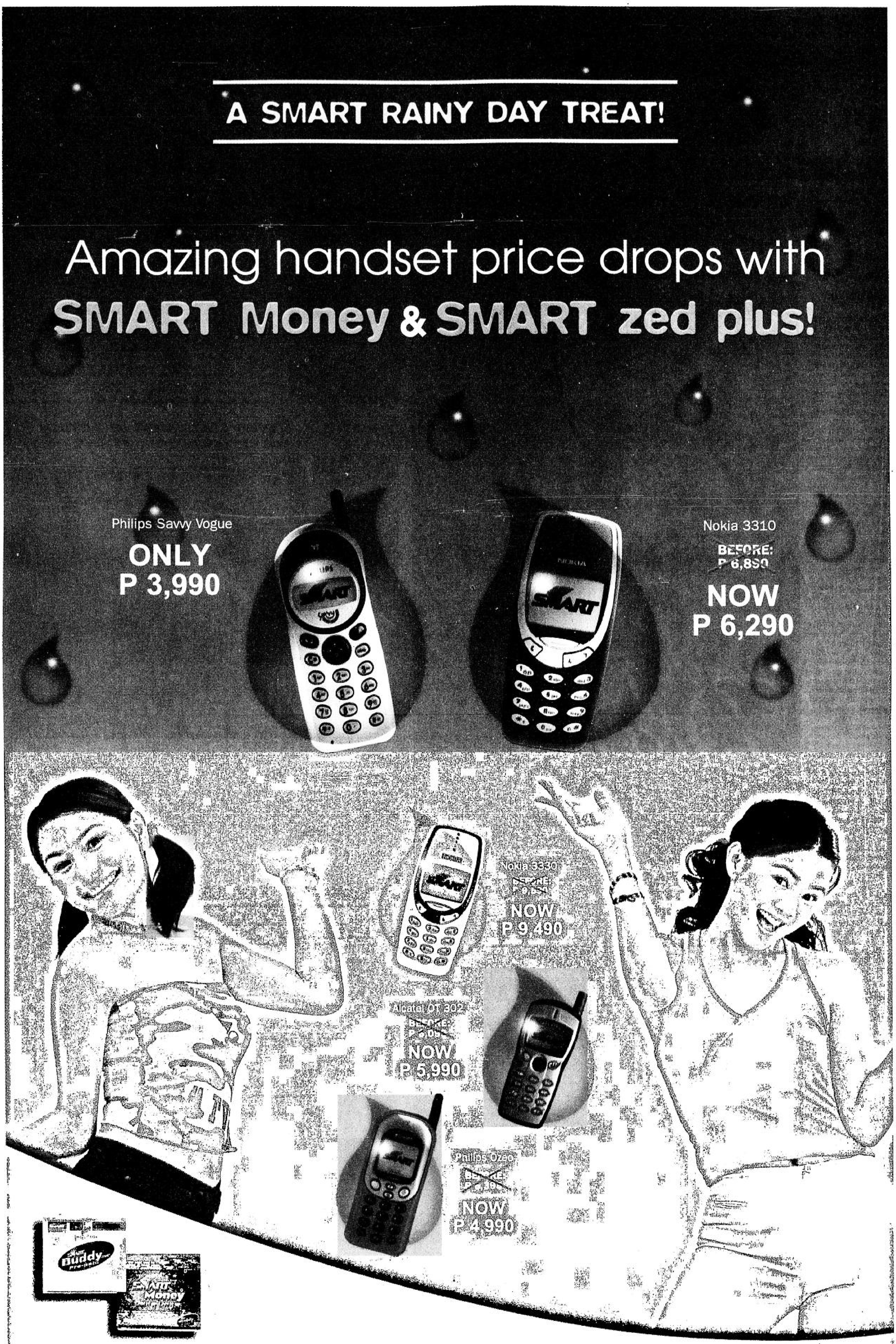

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SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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DTI pushing for SBMA-CDC merger

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry said Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp. must merge first in order to attract local and foreign investors to bankroll the integration and development of the former American military bases.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said that predictability of policies and stability of leadership were the key concerns of investors interested in taking part in the ambitious Subic-Clark Alliance Development project.

Roxas said this could only be achieved through the merger of SBMA and CDC. The merger, he added, would ensure unchanging policy directions, and common standards and procedure in processing projects.

With a merger, Roxas said, "everything would fall into place" including the implementation of the Subic-Clark tollway plan, and the sea and airport development projects.

Based on its present structure, he said the SCAD task force was made up of three governing boards—the SBMA, CDC and Bases Conversion Development Authority—whose leaders were replaced with every political change.

"How can we expect investors to put their money in a project that would take at least five years to implement when they would have to deal with three different sets of boards, different rules and with people who might not be around in three years when there is a new administration?" he asked.

Roxas said that if the proponents of the SCAD project were serious, they would prioritize the filing of a bill pushing for amendments to Republic Act 7227, which created the BCDA in 1991, to pave the way for the merger of SBMA and CDC.

Not unlike corporate mergers, Roxas said the SCAD project would only work if the parties involved would also have a smooth merger of the culture of their workforce.

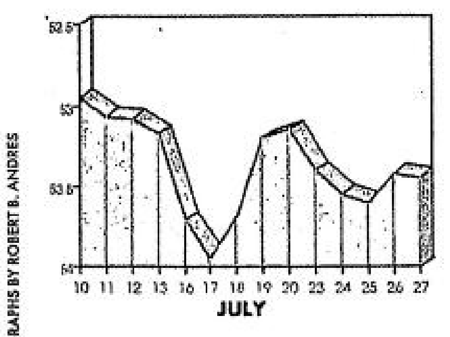
Both SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo and CDC Chair Rizalino Navarro expressed support to Roxas' proposal. Payumo said he would back the merger if that would be what it would take to get his dream project get off the drawing board into reality. Navarro, a former trade secretary, concurred with Roxas that the main concerns of investors in a long-term project were predictability and sustainability.

The SCAD was conceived to realize synergies between Subic's deep harbor and Clark's international runways and use this as a catalyst for the growth of Central Luzon.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P53.45 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
July 27, 2001

Y 123.92 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 123.92 as of 5 p.m., July 27, 2001

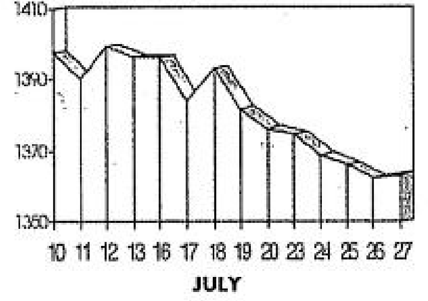
GOLD:$266.20/266.70

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 27, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up slightly

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices yesterday rose slightly, boosted by expectations that brewer San Miguel Corp. would complete its acquisition of Cosmos Bottling Corp., analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 0.76 points to close at 1,363.34.

"The market is up only because of San Miguel," said Fitzgerald Aclan of KGI Inc.

"The transactions on San Miguel, RFM (Cosmos parent firm RFM Corp.) and Cosmos are already half of the market's volume. Those are the only stocks leading the market," said Jose Ricardo Garcia of Diversified Securities Inc.

San Miguel was expected to announce the deal later Friday. Negotiations have been going on for the past month.

Volume fell to 716.77 million shares but value rose to P434.59 million from 1.16 billion shares worth P367.23 million on Thursday.

San Miguel A shares rose 50 centavos to P43 while its B shares gained one peso to P57.

AFP

Industries post lower output growth

THE LOCAL manufacturing industry posted in May an 8.8-percent growth in the value of its production and 2 percent in volume, compared to year-ago levels, a survey conducted by the National Statistics Office showed.

In a report on its Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries, the NSO said that the increases in both the production value and volume last May were the lowest recorded in the last 12 months.

The survey results were based on the response of 430 sample establishments, representing nearly 83 percent of the total number of companies covered.

The volume of the industry's net sales dipped 4.8 percent during the month, a reversal of April's 4.4-percent growth, the survey report indicated.

The same report showed that the value of the industry's net sales in May grew by only 4.3 percent, which was slower compared to the double-digit growths posted in the last 12 months.

Sectors that contributed to the year-on-year increase in value of production in May were food manufacturing, 12.8 percent; textile, 39.3 percent; wearing apparel, 30 percent; electrical machinery, 17.4 percent; non-metallic mineral products, 25.9 percent, and basic metals, 11 percent.

There were sectors that showed increases in net sales value and decline in production value. These include the petroleum products sector whose production value dropped by 2.4 percent but whose net sales value increased by 15 percent.

Those that showed increases in production volume and decreases in net sales volume in May were electrical machinery, non-metallic mineral products and basic products.

The volume of production index for the entire manufacturing sector of 162.4 in May represented a 2-percent improvement from 159.2 in the same month last year. Five out of 16 sectors in the manufacturing industry posted year-on-year increases.

Double-digit decreases in the volume of production were observed in the petroleum products sector, wearing apparel, wood and wood products, transport equipment, paper and paper products and rubber products, the survey report showed.

Ten major sectors exhibited substantial growth in the value of their net sales led by petroleum products that posted 15-percent increase from year-ago level. The others were textile, miscellaneous manufactures and tobacco.

The survey report also indicated that only 21.8 percent of the respondents were operating at full capacity (90 percent to 100 percent). About 38.2 percent of the respondents were operating between 70 percent and 89 percent capacity. Those operating below 70-percent capacity utilization accounted for nearly 40.0 percent, higher by 7.3 compared to year-ago level.

Average capacity utilization rate for May 2001 for manufacturing was estimated at 76.3 percent, 3.9 percentage points lower than the 80.2 percent posted in May 2000. Of the 16 sectors that posted more than 8-percent capacity utilization rates, tobacco reported the highest at 87.2 percent. Other sectors with more than 80-percent capacity utilization rates were miscellaneous manufactures (86.7 percent), paper and paper products (85.6 percent), chemicals (83.9 percent), furniture and fixtures (83.2 percent), wearing apparel (81.8 percent), beverage (81.2 percent) and rubber products (81.1 percent).

Basic metals posted the lowest capacity utilization rate of 67.8 percent.

Thanks to landline technology, a life was saved with help from 8,500 miles away.

With the advances in landline technology, videoconferencing now makes it possible to consult experts from foreign countries. In fact, this very technology made it possible to conduct remote surgery at the Makati Medical Center, with an American surgeon giving instructions from New York. Videoconferencing. Just one of the many ways that the landline is making convergence work for you.

Lifeline

PLDT
THE POWER OF CONVERGENCE

Paper votes

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

BUT I thought it was a good idea! Linking up telecom outfits such as Globe and Smart is good for us. Who wants to carry around two cell phones, anyway?

Some moneyed people I know say it's hard to connect to Smart using Globe and vice versa, so they own two cell phones—one Globe and the other Smart.

Of course, some people regard them as rich pretentious snots for having two cell phones. Truth is, they will still be rich pretentious snots even without cell phones.

* * *

I BRING up the topic of snots because it has something to do with the day's hottest issue. Today's hottest issue involves Gloriaetta, although she's not even a snot.

Supposedly, you see, Gloriaetta vetoed a bill. Certain people close to her wanted it to be, ahh, un-vetoed. It seemed they received a little, ahh, token of appreciation.

That's why the issue is hot. The Senate opposition, as expected, must pounce on it because reports already have linked it to Gloriaetta's husband, Miguel Arroyo.

Enter Laa . . . este, Nani Perez, the justice secretary. He says, legally, Gloriaetta cannot rescind her own veto. It's not done, he says. And then he uses logic.

Perez cannot see the logic in anybody paying up anybody for something that is not supposed to be done. It simply is not logical. Hmm.

And here we were all along thinking that bribes were given precisely to do something that was not supposed to be done. That was stupid of us!

* * *

LOST in all this controversy, however, is the idea whose time has come and gone: the so-called interconnection of the country's various telecom outfits.

The vetoed bill would have given a government franchise to a company that would serve as a clearinghouse for interconnection. So far, so good.

In the beginning, the concept enjoyed support from big telecom firms. Behind it was Jaime Dichaves, a friend of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Under the plan, the companies would form a consortium. This then would own the clearinghouse. Needless to say, Dichaves would also get into the picture.

But all bets were off when Wrist Band had to go home all of a sudden. A certain Pic Marcelo picked up what Dichaves dropped. This time, it became a solo deal.

The group of Marcelo took over the concept. Cut out of the picture were the telecom companies. What do you think they would do? Float paper boats along Pasig River?

* * *

WITH the change in plan, naturally, the telecom companies ran all the way to the Palace to complain. For why would they want a rich, pretentious snotty monopoly?

It was, in other words, telecom's version of the MMDA "kotong" aides who only make the already busy streets even more chaotic.

Or, if our telecom sector was the South Luzon Tollway, the newly franchised company would be the toll booth. Every pass you make, you are robbed.

So the telecom firms lobbied with Gloriaetta to veto the bill. Somebody close to Marcelo supposedly went to somebody close to Gloriaetta for a little . . . well, help.

My source said it was not Mike the Knife. It also was not Bing Rodrigo, who was accused by Mike as the one taking the bribe. Hint: civil society.

* * *

IF cement importers get a restraining order against the Department of Trade and Industry, it may be the end of the local cement industry. It means the dumping will continue.

Let's say that 2004 comes around. I don't know how Gloriaetta intends to explain to thousands of cement plan workers why they have to lose their jobs.

One good prospect is Iligan City. This used to be the most industrialized city in the south. It had the National Steel Corp.'s only plant. It closed down.

Iligan has two cement plants. They are in danger of being closed down. What can Gloriaetta and company expect in Iligan in 2004? Paper votes?

And it's not even because the cement plants are not competitive. Our cement plants can face up to any cement plants in the world. They are as fit as any.

Still, the whole industry is operating at less than half its capacity. It's all thanks to dumping. Imported cement is killing the locals. And right in their own country! Wow!

* * *

INITIALLY, the cement industry wanted to file "dumping" cases against importers.

They buy cement outside at only P86 per bag, against an actual price at the source of P137.

That, the cement industry says, is out-and-out dumping. In this country, unfortunately, you die first before your dumping case is even decided.

Look at the case of NSC. The steel plant actually died even before its dumping case against Russian steel could be finished. It's just hard to prove.

Why is that? Because, in a dumping case, all the evidence against the importer is held by the importer. Your honor, may I submit this evidence against myself?

Thus, not wanting to look stupid and still just die anyway, the cement companies asked the DTI for higher tariff on imported cement. This is still pending.

Well, there's a case against DTI asking for a restraining order. It was filed by importers with short family names, represented by a certain Napoleon Co.

Whaddayano, Co is the very same person whose companies also figured well in the killing of NSC. Yes, they were the ones dumping the steel from abroad. What a guy!

La Tondeña to absorb 3 units

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

LIQUOR firm La Tondeña Distillers Inc. said yesterday its board had approved a plan to absorb the subsidiary operations of two juice units and a water unit into the parent company.

La Tondeña is a subsidiary of the country's dominant food and beverage firm, San Miguel Corp.

Sugarland Beverage Corp., Metro Bottled Water Corp. and SMC Juice Inc. would be merged into the parent company's operations rather than operate as separate units, leaving La Tondeña as the surviving corporation, a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange said.

La Tondeña will seek stockholder approval at a meeting on Sept. 14.

The merger is in preparation for a P6.9-billion deal to spin off San Miguel's non-alcoholic businesses into its newly reacquired soft drink unit, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

It intends to consolidate businesses that will be later spun off into CCBPI. It remains to be seen, however, whether a new company will be created under CCBPI.

La Tondeña will continue to manage Sugarland, Metro Bottled Water and SMC Juice until the end of the year before turning them over to CCBPI.

San Miguel announced in March that it would acquire jointly with The Coca-Cola Co. the water and juice brands of La Tondeña and hand these over to CCBPI. San Miguel owns 65 percent of CCBPI while The Coca-Cola Co. controls 35 percent.

By consolidating its non-alcoholic interests, San Miguel is hoping to gain a position that will allow it to capture the beverage industry's growth prospects.

By associating its water and juice brands with Coca-Cola, one of the world's most recognized brand names and a company that is also aggressively augmenting its non-carbonated beverage portfolio, San Miguel intends to face the market as an even more capable and stronger player.

CCBPI and The Coca-Cola Co. are also finalizing a deal to acquire Cosmos Bottling Corp., the profitable soft drink unit of RFM Corp.

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DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc.** has changed ownership of 40 million shares from its unissued but authorized capital stock from **Aboitiz One Inc.** to **Aboitiz & Co.**

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. has purchased 19,000 of its own shares at P2.04 each on July 26 in line with its stock buy-back program.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University has clarified that the name of its chair is Lourdes Echauz and its director and vice president for alumni affairs is Lucila Tiongco.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. has declared a cash dividend of 25 centavos per share payable on Aug. 31 to all stockholders of record as of Aug. 10.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Medco Holdings Inc.** were Stephen Riady, John Lee, David Yah, Vicente Ang, Dionisio Carpio, Caly Ang, Solomon Castro, Lee Seng Huang and Edna Reyes.

* * *

ITOGON Suyoc Mines Inc. has confirmed that PhilWeb.com Inc. is in discussions with some six potential investors in the company, including Dream Broadcasting System. No agreements have been reached.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philtread Holdings Corp.** were Gerard Brimo, Henry Brimo, Renato Leveriza Jr., Stuart Andrews Hess Jr., Ignacio Ortigas, Antonio Puyat, Eva Policar-Bautista, James Go and Alfredo Figueras. *Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, July 27, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGHLOW		CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	212,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	67	66	66	312,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	36	36	53,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	208	205	206	32,850
Philippine National Bank	40	40	39.5	39.5	18,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	235	235	230	235	200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1470	1475	1470	1475	1,820
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1310	1310	1300	1305	7,450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	38	37.5	37.5	2,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	660	660	830
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.035	0.035	5,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	40,400,000
Piltel	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	670	670	665	665	48,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	30,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37	37	1,100
Manila Electric Co. B	46.5	47	46	46.5	664,600
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.86	1.86	2,678,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.04	2.14	2.04	2.14	2,874,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	157,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,093,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.02	2.02	190,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.4	7,220,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27	28	27	28	73,700
RFM Corp.	2.24	2.4	2.24	2.32	6,610,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43.5	43	43	187,500
San Miguel Corp. B	56	57.5	56	57	840,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	5	3,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	180,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	1,534,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	315,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	11	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.22	1.1	1.18	63,152,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	84,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.72	879,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	120,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	30	30.5	125,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Ionics Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	48,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	22,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	316,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	390,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	920,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.9	4.4	4.9	13,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	80,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	179,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.26	1,290,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.3	0.32	6,380,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	76,000
Music Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.64	260,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	70,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	15	14.25	15	14,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	2,660,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	390,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,220,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	140,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Banco Filipino-Conv.	100	100	100	100	39,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	13,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	690	690	690	690	300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	11,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	-	-	-	-	-
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	32,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	240,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.95	7,754,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	400,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	60,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.245	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.96	3,665,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	2,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	800,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	1,212,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	70,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	5,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.045	0.048	0.045	0.048	16,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.165	1,240,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0044	0.004	0.004	144,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	172,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	1,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	16,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	18,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000

CURRENCIES

July 27, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.139082	1.000000	53.5380
Japan	Yen	0.009212	0.008087	0.4330
United Kingdom	Pound	1.626837	1.428200	76.4630
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146224	0.128370	6.8727
Switzerland	Franc	0.662180	0.581328	31.1231
Canada	Dollar	0.743041	0.652316	34.9237
Singapore	Dollar	0.632121	0.554939	29.7103
Australia	Dollar	0.579096	0.508388	27.2181
Bahrain	Dinar	3.021598	2.652661	142.0182
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303756	0.266667	14.2768
Brunei	Dollar	0.625457	0.549089	29.3971
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024949	0.021903	1.1726
UAE	Dirham	0.310207	0.272331	14.5801
Korea	Won	0.000883	0.000775	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877900	47.0010
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.448863	24.0312
France	Franc	0.152450	0.133835	7.1653
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.398374	21.3281
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.063799	3.4157
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021763	1.1651
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000453	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147652	7.9050
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004379	0.2344
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005276	0.2825
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021763	1.1651
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.114703	59.6790

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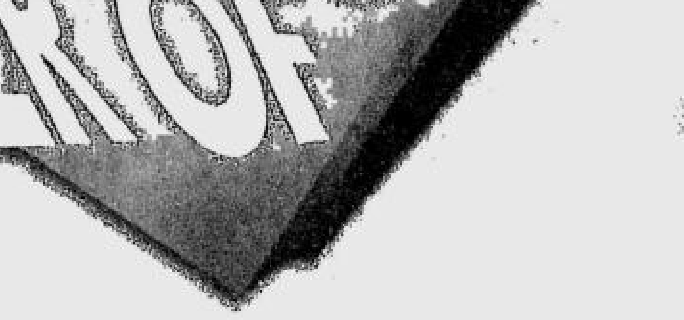

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1029 Series of 2001.

STENIEL MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor sprojects@inquirer.com.ph **Mylene de Jesus**, Account Manager

Steniel now ISO-certified

PACKAGING leadership driven by quality, that is Steniel's greatest pride. Backed by almost four decades of experience in the manufacture of corrugated boxes and rigid plastic containers, Steniel serves the packaging requirements of the country's leaders in various industries, providing them with a wide array of products from regular slotted containers to highly intricate special designs and die-cuts, to high-end laminated boxes. All these packaging materials that Steniel produces come with one distinguishing mark, the Steniel Quality Guarantee.

Today, Steniel even strengthens its commitment to provide quality packaging solutions as its two subsidiaries, Steniel Cavite Packaging Corporation in Cavite and Metroplas Packaging Products Corporation in Parañaque, were recently certified under the ISO 9002 quality standards, while its three other subsidiaries, Treasure Packaging Corporation in Cebu. Metro Paper and Packaging Products Inc. in Cagayan de Oro, and Steniel Mindanao Packaging Corporation in Davao, all prepare to attain the same feat within 2001.

MEMBERS of the ISO steering committees of Steniel Cavite Packaging Corporation and Metroplas Packaging Products Corporation pose with Presient-CEO Delfin P. Paycana and BM Trada's lead auditor Theresa Toyn during the ISO 9002 certification presentation held at the Manila Peninsula last July 24.

MESSAGES

I TAKE pride in congratulating the first two companies within the Steniel Group who have successfully passed the requirements for an ISO 9002 certification. These are Metroplas Packaging Products Corporation (MPPC) and Steniel Cavite Packaging Corporation (SCPC).

MPPC and SCPC's recent feat of joining the elite group of ISO 9002 certified companies are a manifestation of Steniel's continued commitment of consistently delivering quality and service to our customers. It is therefore not surprising at all to see how the Steniel Group has evolved over time from a mere manufacturer of corrugated boxes and rigid plastic containers into a company that offers total packaging solutions to our customers.

I am also pleased to note that in the business community, the name Steniel has become synonymous to quality packaging materials. We have been in this business since 1963 and our nearly 40 years of experience and industry leadership speaks well of our accomplishments. Our incessant effort to improve our way of doing business only proves one thing. That is, at Steniel quality is not a coincidence but a way of life.

The other members of the Steniel Group namely, Metro Paper & Packaging Products Inc., Steniel Mindanao Packaging Corporation and Treasure Packaging Corporation are also working towards their individual ISO 9002 certification. We anticipate that all the companies within the Group will be certified during the year.

To our customers, suppliers, employees, shareholders, and other partners in business, please join us as we celebrate MPPC and SCPC's ISO 9002 certification.

Cheers!

D Paycana
DELFIN P. PAYCANA
President and Chief Executive Officer
Steniel Manufacturing Corporation

IT HAS always been a part of the company's manufacturing practice to focus on meeting our clients' requirements by providing the best possible solutions to their rigid plastic packaging needs. As our quality policy states, "at Metroplas our customers shall always be our top priority." The ISO 9002 certification stands witness to the realization of this goal. Thus, paving the way for an improved working structure and enhanced processes, leading to more efficient responses and better product quality.

The dynamic market conditions in the packaging industry inspired us to pursue the ISO 9002 certification. We have prepared and worked hard to achieve this distinction. We know that to be a cut above the rest, we had to be different. Months of hard work, sleepless nights, prolonged meetings, and non-stop documentation have all culminated into our latest source of pride—to be awarded this world-class certification.

This was made possible through the support of our head office, Steniel Manufacturing Corporation, the untiring dedication of the men and women of Metroplas Packaging Products Corporation and the inspiration provided by our clients and business partners.

We are thankful too to our ISO consultants, Rosehall Management Consultants, and our certifying body, BM Trada, for guiding us through the achievement of this goal. Above all, without the team spirit that pushed to pursue this goal, our ISO 9002 certification would have remained a dream. Today, that dream has finally come true.

We know that getting the certification is only the beginning. As everybody else is getting certified under ISO 9000, complacency could be fatal. To keep the edge and remain dynamic, we must continually implement, maintain and improve on our established quality system over time, as we race towards our ultimate aim of providing total customer satisfaction.

Arcenas
BENJIE M. ARCENAS
General Manager
Metroplas Packaging Products Corporation

GREETINGS from Steniel Cavite Packaging Corporation.

Today we celebrate a very special milestone in the history of our Cavite plant, the achievement of an ISO 9002 Certificate. This certification confirms that our plant is at par with internationally recognized standards for quality management.

The ISO 9002 certification is significant in many ways in that it declares our commitment to excellence in quality management to our customers, employees, and stakeholders.

To our customers, we reaffirm our commitment to the constant pursuit of your satisfaction, and our long-term goal of building bridges with you. We assure you that your specifications are met systematically from the procurement of raw materials, to the whole production process, and finally to the delivery of finished goods to your plant. We believe that as we deliver to your specifications on time and in full, your success as a company will be a reflection of our success as an ISO 9002 certified company. We guarantee and commit this to you.

To our employees, the quality management system will greatly enhance our awareness towards quality and customer satisfaction by developing a culture of quality consciousness in our day-to-day activities. Renewed emphasis on teamwork, motivation, and employee training will be made in achieving our individual, department, and company wide goals. Again, this is our commitment to pursue excellence in the field of manufacturing and management.

To our stakeholders, total quality management will assure you of greater efficiency and productivity in our manufacturing systems by reducing waste and thereby reducing operating cost. Your plant in Cavite will enjoy the lowest cost of manufacturing in the corrugated industry.

However, in achieving this landmark, we will not be complacent, as the search for management excellence never ends. Our road has just begun for a cleaner and greener production process. In the very near future, our plant commits to a more environmentally compliant production processes. Greater emphasis will be placed in the overall safety practices of the plant. Our products will be manufactured in the most efficient and productive manner. And, finally our customer's satisfaction is our ultimate goal.

They say the quest for excellence never ends, here in our Cavite plant, quality consciousness is our way of life.

GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN
General Manager
Steniel Cavite Packaging Corporation

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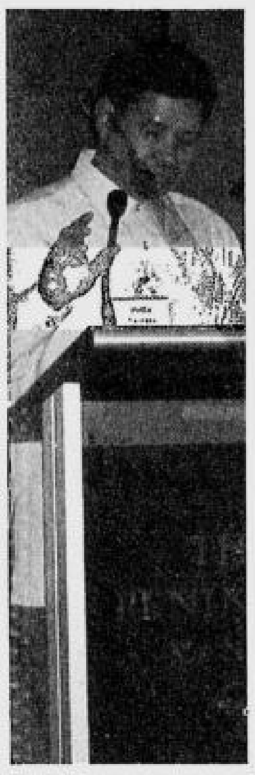
Steniel employees during the ISO certification awarding night



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Steniel

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Business partners and friends celebrate with the Steniel family

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MORE POWER

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CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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People, Events & Products

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Alternative to prepaid cards soon to be launched

THOSE plastic prepaid cards may soon be a thing of the past, thanks to the latest prepaid solution to be launched in the country.

First Mobile Group Holdings Limited and e-pay Limited in the UK recently announced a joint venture company, e-pay Asia Limited, which is set to be the frontrunner in electronic prepaid services in Asia. The new company enjoys the exclusive rights to rollout e-pay services in Mainland China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and the Philippines.

Already, the conglomerate has committed over $7 million worth of investments in the country within the next two years, through its local counterpart, e-pay Asia Phils.

Rob Marabut, CEO and country head of e-pay Asia Phils. Inc., said that the Philippines has been selected as the first country in Asia where this service will be introduced, due to the continuous growth of the prepaid market here. At present, telecommunication industry surveys reveal that prepaid customers in the country comprise as much as 87 percent of all mobile phone subscribers.

"We are extremely confident about the prospects here in the Philippines, and are dedicated to revolutionize the market, through the electronic distribution of prepaid services," Marabut said.

Marabut further explained that the company is scheduled to distribute e-pay terminals in retail outlets all over the country. These terminals will then act as "airtime dispatch points," capable of distributing PINs (Personal Identification Numbers) for prepaid mobile, Internet and landline accounts through paper vouchers rather than plastic cards. And since these PINs are stored and printed by an e-pay terminal at the point of sale, the system eliminates the necessity for prepaid cards altogether.

With this new innovation, e-pay saves retailers from inventory and handling costs. And since PINs are easily downloaded toll-free via a dial-up connection to the e-pay servers, retailers will never have to run our of stock as well.

While the company is planning to initially introduce e-pay terminals in selected sites in Metro Manila, it intends to set-up e-pay terminals in multi-network retailers, such as malls, gas stations and department store chains nationwide.

"We are offering a successful formula to everyone – operators, retailers and pre-paid subscribers alike," Marabut said. "As such, e-pay is the solution to all pre-paid needs." He added, "pretty soon, when you think pre-paid, you'll think e-pay."

ALBAY RELIEF OPERATION

5,000 families in Albay were beneficiaries of relief goods distributed by the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Filipino Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and the United Daily News led by Dr. James G. Dy, Marcelino Lee, Victoria Ko, Loosin Yap, Anton Dy Aprieto and Robert Obriero. Distribution to affected families were done in San Antonio Elementary School, Mayon Elementary School, Tabaco North Elementary School, Tabaco Northwest Central School, San Jose Elementary School, Sto. Domingo Elementary School, San Roque Elementary School, Gogon Central School, Bagombayan Central School and Albay Central School.

CHINA AIRLINES
Ch will see us through

CHINA AIRLINES LAUNCHES AIRBUS A340 IN RP

China Airlines recently held a launch event at the Mindanao Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza for its new Airbus A340 passenger jet servicing the Taipei-Manila route. Richard Liu (above), general manager of China Airlines-Philippines, delivered the keynote address during the launch ceremonies.

Adarna house calls for stories

ADARNA House, the country's pioneer children's book publishing firm, is calling on all budding and professional writers to submit their stories for its next batch of storybooks. Submissions will not follow and particular format and must be accompanied by a short write-up on the writer. Submissions may be addressed to the Product Development Officer, Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Quezon City. For inquiries, call 372-3548 or 49 or e-mail adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph.

Engineering products promo at NBS

THIS JULY National Book Store is holding a special promo for select Canon, Staedtler and Rotring products. From July 7 to 31, get a free Canon mini calculator on pack on selected Canon Scientific Calculators. Get discounts on select Rotring products or get a free gift pack when you buy Rotring products. Get a free Panda Ballpen when you buy any of the Canon, Staedtler and Rotring products featured in National Book Store's Engineering Month ads. Redeem it from the Customer Service counter of the branch where you purchased the product. Redemption of the pen is good until 60 days after the end of the promo period.

Heart Center launches Project Hope

THE CARDIAC Rehabilitation Section of the Philippine Heart Center is expanding its service by putting up a cardiac rehabilitation program specifically for heart failure patients. The program is called Project Hope (Health Optimization through Prevention and Exercise). The program, headed by Dr. Marisa P. Joson, is designed to address the particular needs of this high risk group in terms of exercise training, health education and improving quality of life. Patients attend closely supervised exercise and group discussion twice a week for 2 months with quarterly follow-up for one year. Formal launching of Project Hope was on July 19 at the MAB Hall of the Philippine Heart Center. For further information, call the Cardiac Rehabilitation Section at 925-2401 local 3801 (office hours).

International essay contest

AN INTERNATIONAL essay contest will be sponsored by two Japanese universities, Ritsumeikan University and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in order to stimulate the creativity and academic motivation of overseas students. The Ritsumeikan essay contest extends an opportunity to overseas students interested in studying in Japan. Applicants can select one of the four themes: "Asia Pacific Region Issues", "The Era of Coexistence", "Our 21st Century" and "Flight to Freedom". Prize winners will be invited to an awards ceremony in November, 2001 in Japan. Moreover, two grand prize winners will be given an award certificate and supplementary prize of 100,000 yen (P40,000). Applicants from the Philippines should be high school or university students hoping to enter a university in Japan. For details visit APU website www.apu.ac.jp

Jobs fair on radio

"JOBS on Air" goes one step farther in public service by helping jobseekers "actual" jobs. Starting July, the program will be holding a monthly Jobs Fair, participated in by companies from various industries hiring personnel for different positions here and overseas. The fair dubbed as "Pa-Jobs Fair Sa Jobs On Air" will be co-sponsored by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and other employment-related organizations. Each month, the jobs fair will be hosted by a Local Government Unit (LGU) and will be held at the host's locality. The jobs fair will be covered live on radio. For more details, tune in to "Jobs On Air" every Sunday 3 to 5:30 p.m. over DWSS 1494 a.m. Program host is Barbie L. Atienza.

Zambales and Bataan, new FMD protected areas

SIX years after the country's devastating foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak, Region III remains to be the top FMD hot spot in the country, according to a Task Force report. However, Zambales and Bataan became the first provinces in Region III to be classified as new FMD protected areas.

National Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Task Force Veterinary Services specialist Imelda J. Santos said that based on the FMD Task Force database, Region III registered the highest outbreak yearly since 1995. National FMD Task Force chair Dr. Carolyn Canda-Benigno attributed the consistency to "the fact that Region III has the highest pig population (especially Bulacan)."

Santos said that Zambales and Bataan improved its statistics on FMD outbreak to one to almost nothing in a month; thus, it qualified as an FMD-protected area. The province of Cavite also qualified as a newly FMD-protected area.

FMD is endemic in Region III that the Task Force aims to make it at least sporadic this year, an aim Canda-Benigno described as realistic and attainable.

SkyCable to offer premium tiering

AS a way of offering its subscribers more channels, SkyCable is now seriously considering offering premium channels to its subscribers. This would mean some specialized channels which may not be as popular as the movie/entertainment or science/information channels will soon be offered as an add-on which customers pay on a per channel need-basis.

SkyCable has been considering this option called "premium tiering" for some time now to address the escalating annual rates being charged by some international channels. Premium tiering is already successful in more developed countries as a tactic to attract a rapidly growing niche market of discriminating viewers with more sophisticated viewing habits, tastes and lifestyles.

SkyCable currently offers the most popular international (English language) news channels such as CNN, BBC World and Bloomberg; as well as exclusive channels like the ABS-CBN News Channel, Knowledge Channel, CNA (Channel News Asia), Pinoy Blockbuster, Lifestyle and LakbayTV.

The recent merger of SkyCable with Home Cable should, in time, spell profitability for the new consolidated entity and which should then lead to more programming choices for its subscribers – with premium tiering as one of these.

BITS & Clips

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VISA International, in cooperation with Starbucks and Air France, presents the "Visa Coffee Breakaway" promo. Visa and Visa Electron cardholders can be one of 50 weekly winners who will enjoy a month's supply of Starbucks premium coffee or have a chance to stroll down Champs Elysee during their vacation for two to Paris in the grand raffle draw. The winner and a companion will ride in Air France's first class cabin and be billeted in a 5-star hotel during their weeklong vacation. Winners of the trip to Paris will also receive pocket money worth P100,000. Visa Credit and Visa Electron cardholders can join the raffle promotion by charging a minimum of P1,000 worth of single purchase to their cards. This entitles the cardholder to one call entry by dialing 867-9000. By following the voice instructions, the cardholder must provide information such as the name of the bank issuing the Visa card, the card's last ten digits, their complete name as seen on their cards, date and amount of purchase transaction and the name of the establishment where the Visa transaction was made. The deadline for placing call entries is on July 31. Winners for the Starbucks prizes will be drawn every Thursday until August 2.

RJ Academy recital

THE RJ Academy of Music 4th Recital will be held at the Hive Radio Café, 3rd floor, Save A Lot Mall, 2284 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City on July 28, Saturday from 2-5 p.m. The recital will feature the young RJ Academy students and RJ Music City endorsers Dondi Ledesma, winner best funk and heavy metal bassist in the Worldwide Web conducted by Ernie Ball and Sonic Foundry over the Internet, and ace guitarist Perf de Castro, winner of 1998 Katha best instrumental performance and best instrumental arrangement. RJ Academy of Music was established by Ramon "RJ" Jacinto in 1996. An affiliate of Musician' Institute of Technology, USA (MIT-USA), the RJ Academy of Music curriculum includes note reading and other modern concepts of teaching. Courses offered are guitar lessons, classical, electrical and bass, drums, voice and keyboards.

Padi's Point Las Pinas opens

PADI'S Las Pinas opened on July 23. Located along the Alabang Zapote Highway, Pamplona, Las Pinas. This new Padi's Point outlets offers a total entertainment featuring live bands nightly for their guests in their ground and mezzanine floors. Their "playroom" located on the second floor holds an I-Gotcha Network Gaming, Billiard Hall and Barkada Karaoke.

DOCTOR'S FREE LECTURE

Dr. Gary S. Sy, Diplomate in geriatric medicine and sports, preventive and family Medicine will give a free lecture on 'Circulatory Problems in the Elderly' today, July 28 at the 4th floor, seminar room of COD, Cubao, Quezon City. Sy is also a recipient of a humanitarian award from the Philippine United Senior Citizens Association and is also active in radio where he gives free medical advice. For more information, call 400-4205 or 302-6405.

EMBASSY SUPPORTS FOOD EXPO

On Aug. 3 to 5, "The Best of the World Comes to Manila." Slated at the World Trade Center, this international event has gained support from various embassies of the world. One of them is the Thai embassy. Minister Counselor of the Office of Commercial Affairs of the Royal Thai Embassy M.R. Chirakom Kitiyakara (center) and Second Secretary Nitima Budhirad (right) with Premier Events Plus Group Inc. (Pepgi) marketing manager Jocelle Pascual shake hands at the recent formal signing. With such support, the World's Food and Trade Expo is set to be a prime mover in promoting the best food and beverage products and the latest technologies from all over the globe. For inquiries on the Virtual Trade Show and on joining the World's Food and Trade Expo, get in touch with Premier Events Plus Group Inc. (Pepgi) at 436-4711, 436-4712, 436-4897, fax 436-4898, e-mail info@worldsfoodexpo.com or visit www.worldsfoodexpo.com.

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TEACHER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Dr. Violeta Arciaga, chief of the Science and Technology Education Division, Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) gives a lecture to the Intel Teach to the Future participants. Intel's program teaches classroom teachers on how to use computer technology to improve student learning. The program piloted in the country last November, with some 130 teachers benefiting from Intel's pioneering activity. Intel's goal is to train 20,000 teachers in two years. The program, with Microsoft's support, is held in cooperation with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and EduQuest Inc.

US power firm sets expansion of RP unit

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

MIRANT Corp. has said its subsidiary, Mirant Philippines, will be expanding its power generation investments as deregulation pushes through.

"We think the (Electricity Industry Reform Act) will give us some opportunities to grow here," Mirant president Marce Fuller told reporters.

Fuller said Mirant was awaiting how the privatization of the National Power Corp. would work and what the rules would be in the deregulated market "to determine how we might play in there as well."

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said earlier the implementing rules of the power reform law would be ready before the end of the year.

Fuller pointed out that Mirant was already the largest industry player from the private sector.

"(In the deregulated power industry), we could take part in both the generation sector and the supply market or in either one," she said.

Fuller said it was unlikely that Mirant would be an investor in the transmission sector.

Perez had said the National Transmission Corp. would be the first of Napocor's assets to be privatized.

Gov't names 3rd flag carrier

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

AIR Philippines Corp. got its designation on Thursday as the country's third flag carrier.

Critics quickly slammed the move, saying it supported efforts by beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan to re-establish a monopoly over the country's air transport industry.

Tan is believed to own both Air Philippines and the country's pioneer flag carrier, Philippine Airlines Inc.

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap said the government considered allegations of a monopoly before designating Air Philippines as a flag carrier.

"Issues on monopoly were raised, but these need to be proven. Since Lucio Tan was never placed as an owner, Air Philippines got its designation," he told the INQUIRER.

Before getting a designation as a flag carrier, Air Philippines was asked to produce legal documents to prove that it was a company separate from PAL.

"They were able to produce all the required documents. All the papers were in order," Yap said.

PAL vice president Rolando Estabillo told the INQUIRER that although Tan was a majority owner of both PAL and Air Philippines, "it doesn't mean that we don't compete with each other."

He added that it was too early to speculate about a monopoly when both Air Philippines and the Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific Air, another designated flag carrier, had yet to send their maiden international flights.

"They both have to prove themselves first," he said.

The Freedom to Fly Coalition earlier sounded the alarm against PAL and Air Philippines crowding competitors out of lucrative destinations abroad, including the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore.

"A monopoly should not be allowed. It leads to price fixing. If you have a monopoly, PAL and Air Philippines will continue to give us lousy services, delayed flights and high air fares," Freedom to Fly's Narzalina Lim, a former tourism secretary, told the INQUIRER.

Lim said Cebu Pacific was being prevented by PAL and Air Philippines from operating a flight to Hong Kong.

The Civil Aeronautics Board has given Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines permits to fly abroad.

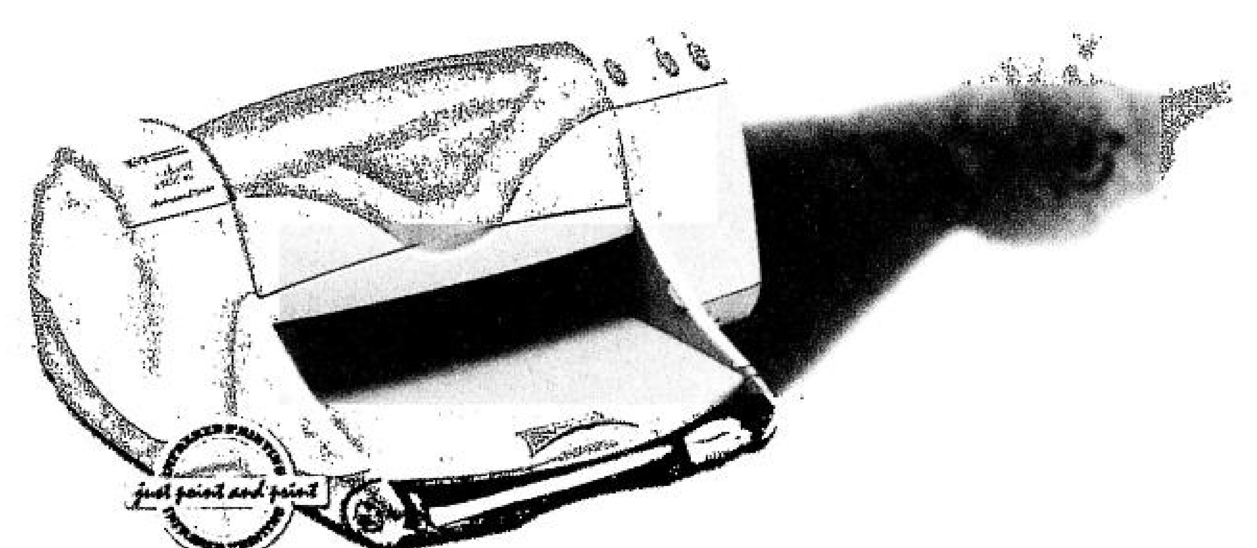
The air services agreement between the Philippines and Hong Kong allows the country's flag carriers to fly 13,000 seats a week.

PAL is already using almost 10,000 seats. The remainder is equivalent to two more flights a day.

Granting Air Philippines one flight would leave Cebu Pacific with only one flight. Should PAL apply for an additional daily flight, Cebu Pacific would be shut out completely, Lim warned.

Lim said PAL and Air Philippines could not be expected to compete against each other because these airlines were both controlled by only one person, beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan.

She said Freedom to Fly considered it a major victory when the government designated Grand International Airways Inc. as a second flag carrier.



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Gov't hands over agricultural lending functions to Quedancor

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has issued an order consolidating its lending capabilities under the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp.

Critics argue, however, that the agriculture department may have transferred functions that are too big for Quedancor to handle.

Quedancor, they point out, has limited capacity to administer and manage huge amounts of credit.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor is handing over to Quedancor over P1.4 billion worth of funds that it may lend to farmers and agricultural cooperatives. Also placed in Quedancor's hands are funds held by the Agricultural Credit Policy Council.

"This would transfer all cash resources and receivables under the Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund and other credit program funds administered by the Agricultural Credit Policy Council to Quedancor," Sebastian said in an order he issued this week.

ACPC executive director Jocelyn Badiola said Quedancor would need to register with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"It would need to make reports to the central bank of its loan portfolio," she said.

Badiola stressed that Quedancor would have to draw a line separating its lending and credit guarantee functions.

"Quedancor must delineate its full credit and guarantee programs because they might just be guaranteeing its own credit portfolio," she said.

Palay production seen up 2%

THE COUNTRY'S palay production probably grew by 2 percent in the first six months of the year despite an onslaught of typhoons, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said in a news conference that palay production probably hit 5.44 million to 5.59 million metric tons in the January-June period, well within the low end of the government's target.

"Rice production was not so significantly affected (by typhoons) because farmers were only on the preparation stage when typhoon Feria hit us in the first week of July. What we are concerned about is corn production," Montemayor told reporters.

He said typhoon Feria probably cut corn production by 3 percent, or by 140,000 metric tons.

Montemayor said to deal with a possible shortage, the government could import about 69,841 metric tons of corn in line with its minimum access volume privilege last year.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics earlier estimated that the country's corn production probably dropped by 2.3 percent in the first six months of the year.

A corn supply shortage could increase prices of live animal and meat products as local feed millers use the agricultural produce in the manufacture of animal feeds.

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Republic Glass' dumping duty plea junked

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE TARIFF Commission has dismissed a petition by Republic Asahi Glass Holdings Inc. for the imposition of an anti-dumping duty on glass products from the People's Republic of China.

The case is the first anti-dumping case to be taken up by the Tariff Commission and the verdict could further discourage local industries from seeking relief from the surge of imports through an anti-dumping duty. Instead, they may opt to seek protection through the Safeguard Measures Act.

In an order issued on the case, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the Tariff Commission Investigation showed that there was no case of dumping of clear figured glass imported from China because there was no price difference between the export price and the home price.

Dumping occurs when a product is sold overseas at prices lower than those prevailing in the producers' home market. The anti-dumping duty is based on the difference between the home and overseas price for the disputed product.

Roxas said the injury cited by Republic Asahi in its petition was due to causes other than dumping.

He has ordered the Bureau of Customs to release to concerned importers the cash bond they posted within one month when the 30-day period for Republic Asahi to file an appeal with the Court of Tax Appeals has lapsed.

Importers of the clear figured glass had to post a cash bond in order to continue their importation while the case was being heard.

Bad loans of thrift banks down

THE BAD loans ratio of the country's thrift banks has slightly improved in March to 11.53 percent of their total loan portfolio from 12.2 percent in the previous month.

This, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data, was due to a 5.85-percent increase in loan growth.

Non-performing loans of the country's more than 100 savings banks, private development banks, and stock savings and loan associations rose by only P6 million. Loans, however, increased by a hefty P7.68 billion.

Even when compared to the net of interbank loans, the non-performing loans ratio of thrift banks dropped in March to 12.03 percent from 12.74 percent. In March last year, the NPL ratio of savings banks was at 12.24 percent.

An account is considered non-performing if its principal or interest remains unpaid for at least 90 days after due date.

While the bad loan ratio of thrift banks went down, their asset quality deteriorated in March. Non-performing assets, including NPLs and all the banks' foreclosed assets, grew by 0.4 percent to P37.88 billion from P37.73 billion in February.

This raised the thrift banks' non-performing asset ratio to 16.13 percent from 16.09 percent in February. A year ago, however, the thrift banks' bad assets ratio stood at 16.72 percent.

The provisions made by banks for the bad loans declined slightly to 49.6 percent in March from 50.6 percent in the previous month.

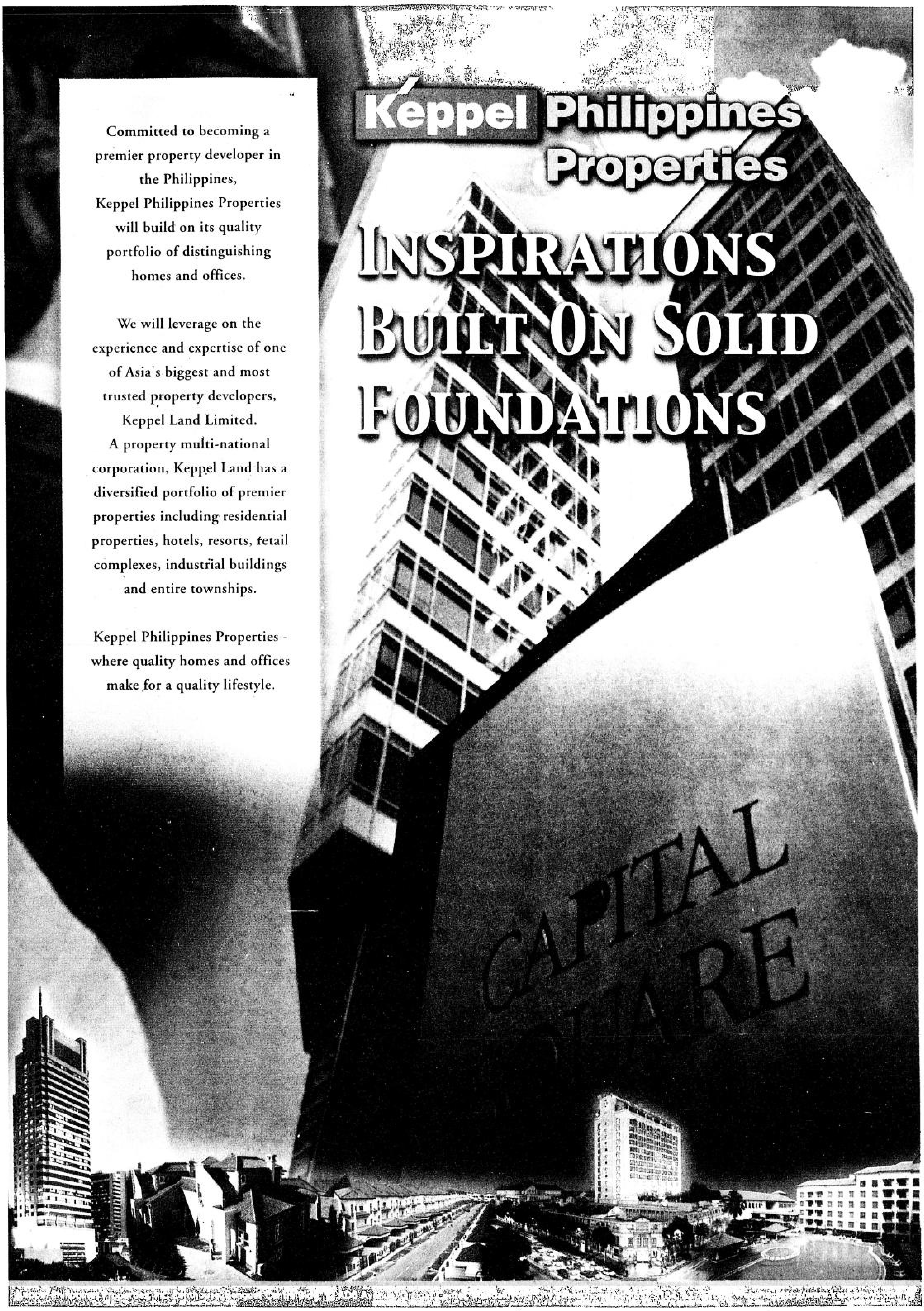
Savings and mortgage banks posted the highest coverage ratio at 60.7 percent followed by private development banks at 41.1 percent and the savings and loan associations at 39.6 percent.

The BSP noted that these banks' gross restructured loans also dropped in the same period by 2.4 percent of total loan portfolio or P3.4 billion from P3.7 billion in February and P2 billion a year ago.

A P149.3-million increase in the thrift banks' real and other properties owned or acquired plus a P6 million rise in NPLs negated a P361-million expansion in assets as of March.

As a result, the coverage ratio for bad assets slightly went down to 23.43 percent from 23.58 percent in February but higher than its year ago level of 21.76 percent.

In March, the bad loans ratio of the commercial banking sector continued to deteriorate to 16.6 percent of total loan portfolio. As of May, the ratio further worsened to 16.81 percent. *Clarissa S. Batino*



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COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041
One (1) Legislative Staff Officer V (Senior Stenographer/Senior Minute Officer) Item No. 44-3/SG21-1 Qualification Standards: CS Professional or Senior Stenographer Eligibility; Bachelor's degree; 3 years related experience; 16 hours of relevant trainng; proficient in Microsoft computer oerations and stenographer machine

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NUESTRA-DAMUS-NAV PAWNSHOP Makati City Auction Sale on August 7, 2001. All unredeemed pledges during the month of March 1-31, 2001. Nuestra Br. II Pio - 9:30am; Nuestra Br. I - 10:30am; Nuestra Br. VI - 11:30pm, Damus Br. I Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main-JP-1:30pm NAV Pawnshop-2:00pm; Nuestra Br. IX-3:00 pm.

Sons of Lanuza-Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NUESTRA-DIAJADE Pawnshop Las Pinas Metro Manila.
Will have its Auction Sale on August 9, 2001. All unredeemed pledges during the month of March 1-31, 2001. Diajade Main-9:30am; Diajade Br. II - 10:30am; Nuestra Br. III - 11:30am; Diajade Br. I - 1:00pm; Nuestra Almanza 2:00pm.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOAQUIN M. CARRILLO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc#17 Page#05 Book#XVI Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Romeo De Chavez.
(PDI July 28 Aug. 4, & 11 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of stock certificate #88012044, 30 shares dated July 25, 1988 issued by San Miguel Corp. to Ms. LORNA A. ABANTO if no contest is presented, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-July28,Aug.4&11,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen
Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. MTO

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Fax no. 435-98-75
(Engr. Bal Cajilig or Lulu Manahan)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply and installation of Structured Cabling for high rise office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification and bidding of Contract Package 36B for the new LBP HQ Building in Ermita, Manila, with the following schedule:

Project Title	Project Cost	Issuance of Prequalification Forms	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Contract Package No. 36B: Supply and Installation of Horizontal Structured Cabling	Php 20.0 Million	August 1, 2001 @10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	August 15, 2001	August 22, 2001 @10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	August 27, 2001 @10:00 A.M.	Sep. 3 2001 @10:00 A.M.

All interested contractors may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the **Project Management Engineering Department (PMED)**, 2F LBP bldg. 3, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,000.00.

Duly accomplished pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than 5:00 PM, **August 8, 2001**, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating contractors shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified contractors may secure Bid Documents at the TMG Office located at 3/F, LBP Bldg 2, 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,500.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2nd Flr, LBP Building 3, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) sealed envelope system (envelopes "A & B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM **September 3, 2001** (the Bidding Date), after which no envelopes will be received. Bidding shall be held @ the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ
Chairman
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Bldg. Project

(PDI--July 28, 29 & 30, 2001)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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811-4370

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528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and bid for the

U.P. DILIMAN FACULTY DORMITORY COMPLEX PROJECT

Property measuring approximately 11,700 square meters, bounded by Ma. Guerrero, Agoncillo and Magsaysay Sts. (fronting the International Center), UP Diliman, QC, to be developed under BOT scheme as a complex which includes an 80-room Hostel and a 320-room Faculty Dormitory.

Prequalification forms and Terms of Reference may be obtained from the UP Diliman Development and Planning Committee (DPC) Secretariat, Room 101 College of Business Administration, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 from **July 30 to August 3, 2001**. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents will be on **August 10, 2001**. After the evaluation of the documents submitted, the prequalified developers shall be duly notified of the schedule of activities associated with the process. For inquiries, please call tel. no. 928-4571 loc. 1011 - c/o Ms. Chona Hipol.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI--July 28, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama-Sama Sa DECS

Invitation for Bids

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has entered into Loan Agreement 4535 with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies for the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project (SEMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the following contracts for supply and delivery of school furniture to public elementary and secondary schools in the country.

   List of contracts/package (Quantity)

Location	Elementary School Furniture	Secondary School Furniture
Region I	Lot 1 (1,561)	Lot 2 (3,632)
Region II	Lot 3 (6,847)	Lot 4 (6,151)
Region III	Lot 5 (3,076)	Lot 6 (5,807)
Region IV	Lot 7 (20,361)	Lot 8 (16,098)
Region V	Lot 9 (13,421)	Lot 10 (8,748)
Region VI	Lot 11 (15,628)	Lot 12 (13,601)
Region VII	Lot 13 (13,578)	Lot 14 (11,065)
Region VIII	Lot 15 (9,614)	Lot 16 (7,489)
Region IX	Lot 17 (8,939)	Lot 18 (6,082)
Region X	Lot 19 (8,503)	Lot 20 (5,209)
Region XI	Lot 21 (14,402)	Lot 22 (9,644)
Region XII	Lot 23 (8,411)	Lot 24 (6,639)
CARAGA	Lot 25 (6,719)	Lot 26 (5,056)
NCR	Lot 27 (15,242)	Lot 28 (19,727)

2. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports through the DECS BAC (Bids and Awards Commitee) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture to public elementary and secondary schools.
3. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of school furnitures.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at Bids and Awards Commitee-Foreign Assisted Projects (BAC-FAPs), G/F Rizal Building II, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City with Telephone Nos.: 635-3762 and 631-1361 loc. 2085.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on completion of an application form from BAC-FAPs and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000). The bidding documents will be made available at the BAC-FAPs starting July 30, 2001.
6. The provisions in the Instruction to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.*
7. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two and one half percent (2.5%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City on or before 10:00 AM, **September 11, 2001**.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 AM on **September 11, 2001** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to Bid Opening, a Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the address stated in paragraph 8 at 10:00 AM on **August 21, 2001**.
10. The BAC-FAPs reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the packages to one or more bidder(s).

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Commitee
Foreign Assisted Projects (BAC-FAPs)

(PDI -- July 27, 28 & 29, 2001)

National Power Corporation
GENERATION COMPANY 1
161 Bonifacio Drive Port Area, Manila 1018

GENCO-1

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID (2PQ0299RCC-004)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contracts Committee (RCC) is inviting contractors to prequalify for the re-bidding of SUPPLY OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR HOPEWELL TANK FARM, NAVOTAS AND MALAYA GAS TURBINE PLANT, PILILIA, RIZAL.

Application for prequalification is open to wholly owned Filipino Security Agency with valid license issued by the PNP-SOSIA and with at least three (3) years experience.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting **July 20 up to August 10, 2001** at the Contract Management Office (CMO), Third Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's PNP-SOSIA License, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.

For purposes of Prequalification and Bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

Submission of Prequalification Documents	- August 15, 2001 (8 am - 5 pm)
Issuance of Bid Documents	- September 24, 2001 (8 am - 5 pm)
Pre-Bid Conference	- October 2, 2001 (10 am)
Submission/Opening of Bids	- October 12, 2001 (10 am)

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Manager, Professional Services Department
and Chairman, RCC

(PDI -- July 28, Aug. 2 & 6, 2001)

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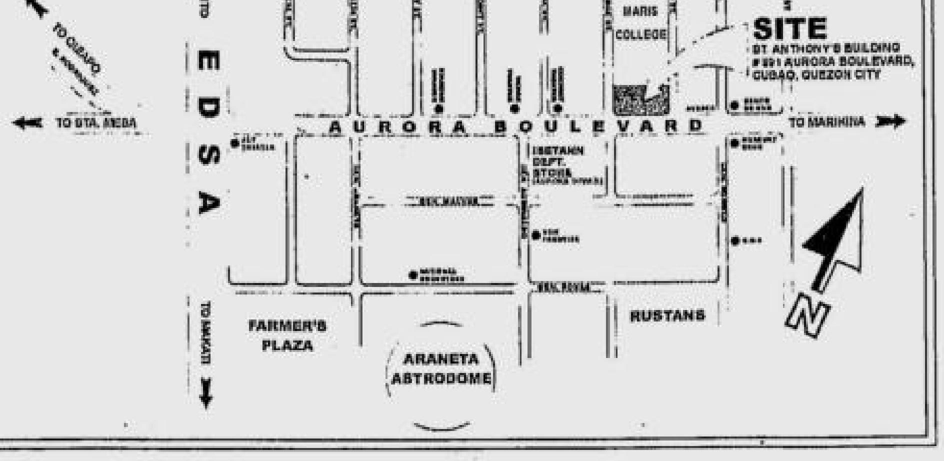

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
CENTRAL PROJECT OFFICE

DAR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (hereinafter referred to as JBIC) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project - Phase II (ARISP II), and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for procurement of equipment.

The DAR, Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO), Pre-qualifications, Bids and Award Committee is inviting contractors to pre-qualify and bid for computers and accessories under one (1) lot only, as follows:

80 units of desktop personal computer
80 units of color printer
80 units of computer table
20 units of scanner

JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the Philippines-Department of Agrarian Reform, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:

1. will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
2. will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.

Interested eligible parties are invited to pre-qualify and to submit sealed bids using Two Envelope System.

- ☞ Pre-qualification documents and technical specifications of the units shall be available for issuance on July 30 - August 3, 2001.
- ☞ Closing date and time for submission of duly accomplished Pre-Qualification documents shall be on August 10, 2001, 5:00 P.M. Manila time.
- ☞ Letter of Notice to Bidders shall be issued on August 23-24, 2001.
- ☞ Bid documents shall be issued to Pre-Qualified Bidders on August 27-31, 2001, upon presentation of a valid Pre-Qualification Letter and payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.
- ☞ Closing date and time of submission of bids is September 7, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. Technical Proposals shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders on the same day at 9:30 A.M.
- ☞ Notice to Complying Bidders shall be on September 20-21, 2001.
- ☞ Opening of Financial Proposals in the presence of qualified bidders shall be on September 25, 2001, 9:30 A.M.

All documents pertaining to the tender are available at DAR-FAPsO, Administrative Unit, 2nd Floor, FAPsO Building, Department of Agrarian Reform, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The DAR reserves the right to reject any bids or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSE MARIE B. PONCE**
Assistant Secretary, SSO and
Executive Director, FAPsO

(PDI--July 28 & 29, 2001)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of One (1) unit Banknote Canceller (per BSP specifications).

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than **August 14, 2001**, photocopies of the following documents (original of Nos. 4 and 5 are to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. If the bidder is not the manufacturer, a certification from the manufacturer that the bidder is an authorized distributor of the machine;
2. Certification of support from the manufacturer on spare parts availability and after sales service for a period of at least three (3) years;
3. Submission of brochures/literatures of the machine to be offered for evaluation purposes;
4. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
5. 2000 Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement - Minimum working capital of P1 Million and a networth of P2 Million or its equivalent in foreign currency);
6. Company history/profile and corporate structure; and
7. List of reference sites/successful installations with at least one (1) year experience with the proposed machine (complete with contact name, address and telephone/fax numbers).

Only those who submit/comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised to the prequalified suppliers.

The two-envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Manager I, Procurement Division III, Administrative Services Department, Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, Tel. Nos. 523-1321.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Officer-In-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI - July 28, 2001)

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Eavesdropper

Q. Someone who secretly listens to private conversations is called an *eaverdropper.* Why?

A. The *eaves* are the lower edges of an overhanging roof, and before the days of gutters and drainpipes their function was to allow rain to drip away from the house itself. The area of ground onto which the rain was deflected was known as the *eavesdrip* or *eavesdrop.* An *eavesdropper,* then, stood under the eaves, an ideal place to hear what people were saying inside the house.

For the Record. The dizziness you feel after spinning around several times is due to the balance organs in your ears being overstimulated. This confuses the brain so the whole world seems to spin. The fluids in the ear canals and sacs do not slosh about freely, but little stones or jelly-like masses in them cause hair on the receptor cells to wave from side to side. It is this motion that needs time to settle down within 15 to 20 seconds so your balance organs can become sensitive again.

Past Forward. This day in 1914: A 19-year-old Serbian terrorist named Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, while the couple traveled through the streets of Sarajevo, in what is now the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The assault triggered World War I, a four-year conflict that resulted in 10 million men killed and 21 million wounded at an aggregate cost of $350 million.

WORD WATCH

Komplot (wat, wôt) : from the Spanish *complot,* 'plot, conspiracy, intrigue.'

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For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

ENGR. MARCELINO "CELING" M. AUSTRIA

Peacefully joined his Lord on July 26, 2001
at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Lorenza Carnero Austria**; children **Liza & Marlo, Marvin, Marlon & Olive, Mari & Emy, Medwin & Nemia,** and **Marcelle**; grandchildren **Myles & Matthew, Tricia & Mia, Nicole & Vienna, Marty & Marian**; relatives and friends mourn his passing and wish him eternal rest.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Tuesday, July 31, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

JOSE LOPEZ BURGOS, CPA, MBA, PhD

SEPTEMBER 03, 1922 — JUNE 19, 2001
Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus 4105 - Obando, Bulacan
Former Chairman - Board of Accountancy, Professional Regulations Commission
Former Dean - Graduate School, Colegio de San Juan de Letran
Director - Chemical Dispersions Inc. and CDI Sakata Inc.
Director - National Life Insurance Company of the Philippines

Your face lights up the clear, bright sky,
Looking at us with a warm, happy smile!
Joy fills our hearts, no more tears in our eyes,
Your're not gone, Tatay, you just left for awhile.
Feel the warmth of our love, each day and every night,
Forever you'll be a part of our lives.
Have a peaceful rest Tatay... remember, it isn't good-bye!

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Card of Thanks

"In my Father's house are many mansions.
If it were not so I would have told you,
I go to prepare a place for you...
and where I am, there, ye may be also."

In our time of bereavement, we take solace from the countless ways with which you comforted us. We may mourn the passing of our beloved,

FELICIANO "Felicing" ADORABLE

but the promise of life eternal stirs hope anew that someday, just as our mortal lives were intertwined, so shall we be when we are reunited with him.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH
CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

July, the 'bloodiest' month

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

Five-year-old Mark Reyes of Arlegui, Quiapo, was rushed to the Mary Chiles Hospital last year. He was bleeding and was diagnosed to have dengue hemorrhagic fever. He needed four bags of blood. His uncle, Pablo Camposagrado, an employee of the Technological Institute of the Philippines, was able to obtain blood for Mark. Mark is now a healthy boy.

Mark was just one of the many patients who have benefited from the Philippine National Red Cross.

Last year, the PNRC's national blood services collected 116,479 blood units and this benefited 66,543 patients from 898 hospitals nationwide.

There were 35,159 new blood donors in 2000, accounting for 30.19 percent of the collections for the year.

In the process of screening potential blood donors, the PNRC refused 15,210 people for the following reasons: anemia, hypertension, hypotension, underweight and alcoholism.

Other restrictions included infections, medicines being taken, sleep problems and a history of sexually transmitted diseases. Any hint of doubt about a potential donor was cause for outright rejection. Donors younger than 18 required parental consent.

The blood collected by the PNRC is given for free. There is, however, a screening fee ranging from P300 to P800 to cover the costs of detecting for any of the five diseases: HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, syphilis and malaria.

July has been declared by the Department of Health as the blood donation month. It is during this time when the PNRC and the DOH go all out in their voluntary blood donation campaign.

Healthy individuals aged 16 to 65 years and weighing at least 100 pounds with a pulse rate of 60 to 100 regular beats per minute are encouraged to donate their blood.

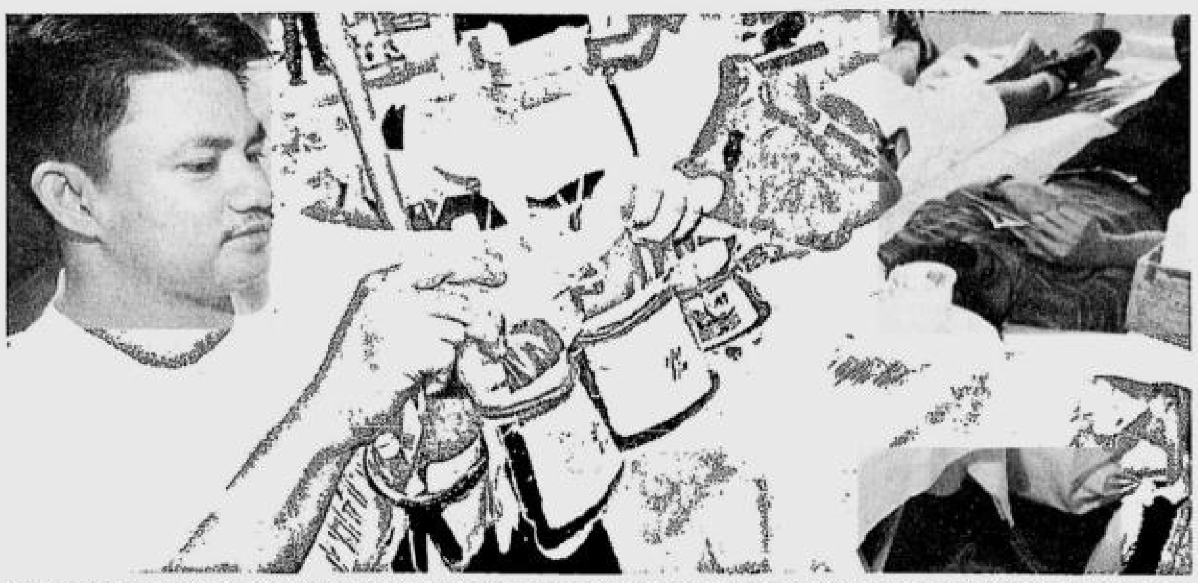
PNRC's National Blood Center physician in charge, Dr. Michael Angelo Marquez Jr., said that the World Health Organization standard is that blood supply should be sufficient 4 percent of the total population.

Marquez said it would be hard to determine if sufficient supply is being met because there is a major problem in record keeping.

"As far as the Red Cross is concerned, we can reach up to 120,000 units. The target usually ranges from 550,000 to 650,000 units annually. What is hard with other institutions is that they don't keep records so I could not really say if the quota is being achieved," he said.

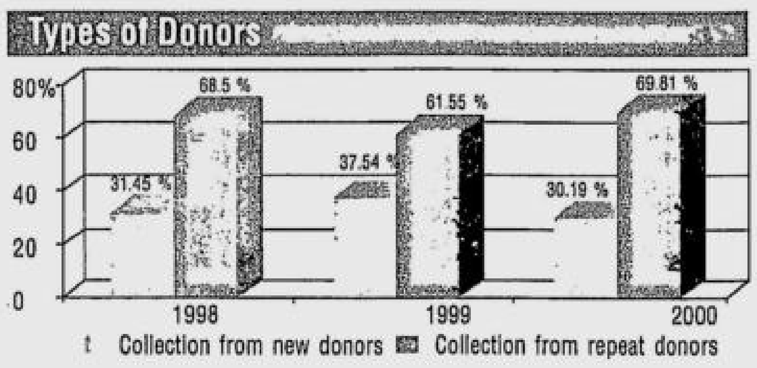
Marquez added that some doctors would request more than what they actually need.

The recent outbreak of dengue has brought about a rising demand for fresh frozen plasma. A patient with dengue needs six to 10 bags of blood. Sometimes, patients would also need platelets.



VOLUNTARY blood donation is needed to augment the country's blood supply especially during the dengue season.

ERIK ARAZAS



Hit-or-miss transfusions

Filipino specialists in blood transfusions who are also members of international societies observed that in the Philippines, blood transfusions could be called a hit-or-miss affair because a lot of mistakes are committed.

The specialists said that there was no society of blood transfusion medicine in the country. They stressed that blood transfusion should be treated as a separate field of medicine, such as pediatrics and surgery.

They also observed that one major problem was that doctors here are not trained on how to use blood or how to correctly extract just the exact component of the blood needed for a particular situation.

Apheresis machine

An improvement in blood collection processes is in the offing, the PNRC said.

The availability of apheresis machines could enable the PNRC to separate blood components correctly and expediently.

Marquez said that through the machine, the PNRC could extract six to eight units of platelets from one donor. It is a much safer process, he said, because the source of blood components for a patient could be derived from one donor only.

"This would mean only one cross-matching needed—less risk (for the recipient)," he said.

There are now apheresis machines in the PNRC blood centers in Manila, Zamboanga City and Laguna. The addition of the machine in Zamboanga is considered timely, with the outbreak of dengue in that region.

"Within the next (two weeks), the apheresis machines would be fully (operational)," he said.

Safer bloodletting

Marquez said donors, however, were afraid of bloodletting via apheresis machines. "We have to convince more donors to undergo this new procedure," he stressed.

Another obstacle is the expensive kit required by these machines. Marquez, noted, that bloodletting through the apheresis machine would be much safer and the side effects of sudden blood loss lessened. The blood extracted from the donor is replaced by saline solution, which maintains the blood volume in the donor's body.

PNRC manager for national blood services Dr. Cecilia Francisco said the lack of funds remained the biggest obstacle to acquiring quality blood.

"The blood is free but obtaining blood requires a processing fee to ensure quality," she said.

Francisco also said that regularly donating blood was not yet a habit for Filipinos.

Metro school leads the way

A METRO Manila university is one of the regular clients of the Philippine National Red Cross in its voluntary blood donation program.

PNRC's National Blood Center physician in charge, Dr. Michael Angelo Marquez Jr., credited the Technological Institute of the Philippines for providing significant amounts of blood in time for this year's dengue season.

Marquez said the blood contributions of students of TIP Manila and Quezon City are helping avert a blood shortage in the face of an increase in the number of dengue cases.

"We got 3,000 units of blood from TIP Manila and Quezon City in two days. The surplus blood supply was immediately given to San Lazaro to respond to (the needs of) dengue (patients)," he said.

TIP president Teresita U. Quirino narrated that it was chair Demetrio Quirino Jr. who started the practice of blood donation for TIP in 1967.

This year, TIP has already contributed 5,918 bags of blood—3,500 in February and 2,418 in July. February is Demetrio's birth month, while July is Teresita's birth month. A total of 1,389 student-donors from the engineering, commerce, architecture, and computer science schools have voluntarily donated blood.

"When the PNRC conducts blood donation activities, usually only a small group donates blood. But in our school, it has become part of our lives already. Two years ago we started doing it twice a year," Teresita said.

She said some students even wanted to give more blood, but a donor is only allowed to give blood three months after the last donation.

She said that in the beginning, blood donation used to be an exclusive activity of TIP's male ROTC cadets. Eventually, the entire TIP community joined in.

She said the TIP blood donation program was like a big campus party, complete with a program and even a raffle.

"The advantages of donating blood, other than knowing your blood type, is that you can easily get blood in times of emergency," said engineer Noel Vargas, TIP's security and safety department head.

Vargas' department is recognized as having some of the more active blood donors in the school.

Tessa R. Salazar

HOW TO DONATE BLOOD

- Go to the nearest blood collection unit in government hospitals.
- Register as a potential blood donor.
- Your medical history will be taken.
- A physical examination follows to check on your weight, temperature, pulse and blood pressure.
- A blood test will be done to know your blood group type.
- The donation will take 5 to 10 minutes.
- Approximately 450 cc of blood will be taken, which is about 7 to 9 percent of the blood volume of an average adult.
- The volume will be replaced by your body within 24-48 hours and by drinking more fluids.

After donating blood:

- You should leave the adhesive dressing on your arm for at least 3 hours but not more than 12 hours. Bruising or discoloration may occur but it will disappear in a few days.
- Avoid carrying heavy objects with the arm from where the blood was extracted.
- Do not smoke for the next two hours.
- Avoid alcohol intake for the next 12 hours.
- Eat regular meals and increase fluid intake.

The case of the special child

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

NICO is the second of two sons of Randy and Emma. He is very active and implusive. He hates to be confined to a seat, and when he's made to do so, he shifts in his chair restlessly, shakes his legs continuously and fidgets with his hands. He is an impatient listener and talks almost incessantly. He loves fairy tales, old fashion magazines, clowns and magicians. He loves to eat. Cakes and ice cream can make his day anytime. He goes into tantrums when he doesn't get what he wants just like what many children always do. Except that Nico is 22 years old. He is a special grown-up child.

A lot of sacrifices

Nico's family lives comfortably in a middle-class subdivision in Bacoor, Cavite. Emma gave up her job as a manager in a printing press when Nico was 5 years old so she could take care of him full time. Randy likewise abandoned his career as a highly paid overseas entertainer so he could be with his family and special son. He now works as a manager in a Makati company.

The family's life including that of elder son Tony has practically revolved around Nico. Tony took up Child Psychology in college so he could help in Nico's therapy. As Nico was special, Tony was gifted, graduating with highest honors and winning awards here and abroad for his musical compositions.

Randy and Emma enrolled in several schools meant for special children. Nico would enjoy school for a few weeks, a couple of months at most. Then usually due to trivial matters, he just won't go to school anymore and bodily carrying all of Nico's 170 lb was a herculean task for his persevering but forlorn parents.

"Parenting a special child really requires a lot of sacrifices," Nico's doctor told Randy and Emma the first time he was diagnosed to have an Attention Deficit Disorder or ADD.

The doctor explained that ADD is characterized by poor or short attention span and impulsiveness, which is inappropriate for the child's age. It occurs 10 times more frequently in boys than in girls and hyperactivity may or may not be present. The implicated cause is a disturbance of neurotransmitters, which are substances that transmit nerve impulses in the brain.

Symptoms

Children with ADDS are diagnosed if they have 8 of the following 14 symptoms:

- Restlessness characterized by fidgeting with the hands or feet or squirming
- Difficulty to remain seated when required to do so
- Blurting out answers before questions are completed
- Inability to follow instructions for others
- Easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
- Difficulty to wait for one's turn in games and group activities
- Difficulty to sustain attention in tasks or play activities
- Shifting from one uncompleted task to another
- Difficulty in playing quietly
- Talking excessively
- Interrupting or intruding on others as they say or do something
- Inability to listen to what others are saying
- Losing things necessary for tasks or activities at school or at home
- Engaging in physically dangerous activities without considering possible consequences

Generally, children up to age 4 may show some degree of hyperactivity and some of above symptoms. But if these symptoms persist beyond the age of 4, especially if the child is not doing well in school, one should suspect a possible ADD. About 20 percent of children with ADD have learning disabilities and almost all of them have coping problems in school. About 40 percent are depressed, anxious and oppositional, sometimes violently so, when they reach adolescence.

Majority of ADD children have temper tantrums and adolescents usually have a low frustration tolerance which explains why Nico can never stay in school for long. Although impulsiveness and hyperactivity tend to diminish with age, inattentiveness and the other symptoms generally persist even during adulthood.

Most effective treatment

In terms of treatment, psychostimulant drugs are the most effective treatment, usually combined with behavior therapy conducted by a child psychologist. The parents have to be advised on modified parenting techniques. A stable and supportive home environment is the single most important factor in the behavior therapy of ADD children.

If any consolation, adolescents and adults with ADD adjust better to work than school situations. They can be assigned small tasks at home or even in the office and they may also be given token remuneration to bolster their usually low self-esteem. The family should watch out for depression and anxiety, which can make them predisposed to substance abuse in adulthood.

Since the last time Nico dropped out of school, Emma has become his permanent in-house teacher. How she has endured everything from Nico's inappropriate behavior to his unreasonable demands and occasionally violent tantrums, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week without any break at all, is beyond many people's comprehension. Emma however has found happiness in doing everything for Nico. And her love for her special child has defied all reasonable intolerance for the sleepless nights, physical and mental exhaustion and the endless list of problems, which have all become part of her daily grind. For Emma, that is what motherhood is all about.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some information have been changed to hide the patient's identity. Apart form the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient, Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

A history of Filipino science

(First of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FOR THE PAST three weeks, we have seen the activities surrounding the silver jubilee of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). Plenary speeches from several scientific fields highlighted Filipino achievements for the past decades, and outstanding scientists and scientific works were also recognized.

Since the NAST is the premier government advisory body on science and technology in the country, it is but fitting that we now take a closer look at what it really is, what it does, and what it has accomplished so far.

The world-class scientists who are members of the NAST are distinguished internationally in their own right, but collectively, they represent the best of what the Philippines has produced in science. Entrance into the Academy is not easy—not by application, but by peer recognition and election. At present, the NAST has 50 members, 15 of them women.

Given our national low regard for science, it is a wonder that the NAST members were able to achieve what they had. Areas of specialty of the NAST members include cytology, cardiology, nuclear science, environmental medicine, pediatrics, entomology, parasitology, endocrinology, genetics, plant breeding, physiology, biochemistry, phycology, physics, mathematics, psychology, economics, statistics, toxicology, pharmacology, epidemiology, nutrition, history and chemical engineering.

Despite these esoteric-sound fields, Academicians' life works have been devoted to everyday concerns such as rice, coconut, corn, carabao, livestock feed, soybeans, bluegreen algae, fish parasites, endemic goiter, children's diseases, women's development, schistosomiasis, medicinal plants, essential oils, macapuno, insects, ascariasis and cattle. There is also rural development, economic policy, mutagens, toxic peptides from marine snails, cholesterol in Philippine diets, national statistical programs, food and nutrition, natural resource policy research, electronics and instrumentation, genetic engineering and biosafety, biotechnology, knowledge economy and information and communications technology and population.

The NAST grew from small beginnings. In the early 1970s, a group of scientists from the University of the Philippines thought of putting up an academy of science in the country. They foresaw the need for a body that would offer due recognition and provide incentives for scientific research and excellence. They were inspired by respected institutions such as the Royal Society of London, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Academie des Sciences in France, the Academy of Sciences in the Soviet Union and the National Academy of Sciences in the United States.

The NAST was the dream of these Pinoy scientists: cytogeneticist Dr. Joventino D. Soriano, phycologist Dr. Gregorio T. Velasquez and his wife, parasitologist Dr. Carmen G. Velasquez, marine biologist Dr. Edgardo D. Gomez and public health specialist Dr. Edito G. Garcia.

In May 1976, the National Science Development Board (the forerunner of today's DOST) endorsed the proposed establishment of the academy of science for funding by the government. Presidential Decree 1003-A was soon passed, creating the NAST to "serve as a reservoir of competent scientific and technological manpower for the country."

Two years later, then President Ferdinand Marcos named the first 10 members of the Academy. From them, three were proclaimed National Scientists, the highest honor conferred by our country on a scientist. Academician Paulo C. Campos was named the first president in 1979.

By an Executive Order in 1982, the mandate of the Academy expanded to include advisory role on science and technology to the President and the Cabinet. Academician Dioscoro L. Umali became the next president.

Of course, the main goal of the NAST is to address pressing scientific and technological concerns in the Philippines. According to National Scientist Gelia T. Castillo, a rural sociologist, Academicians spend their whole lives in research, teaching and public service. They set the standards for substance, rigor and relevance, which aspiring scientists can emulate.

"Science by its very nature demands intellectual honesty, integrity, independence and single-minded dedication to chosen fields of study. These qualities could serve our society well beyond scientific endeavors," Castillo said.

"Academicians, individually and collectively, contributed substantially to the body of knowledge in different fields, to policy making and development of research agendas, to review and evaluation of research and development programs, to the science dialogues in the country and elsewhere, to capacity building and nurturing of younger scientists. They likewise have shared ideas, expertise and experience on a variety of issues of human significance," she said

To this end, the NAST convenes annual scientific meetings, roundtable conferences, informal discussions and other consultative meetings on scientific policy. Some problem areas, which have arisen in the forums, included biotechnology, environmental changes and management, agricultural policies, coconut oil and health, pollution and alkyl benzene, the milk industry and rice self-sufficiency.

A monthly science literary forum (which I personally hope will be more active and visible) is convened to improve science literacy in the Philippines. Participants are publishers, editors, science writers and scientists.

In addition, a Speakers Bureau has been created to meet science information needs in different parts of the country.

(To be concluded next week)

Support your child's brain power

TODAY'S parents have taken a more active interest in their child's development, especially the scientific aspect of their growth. With new developments constantly appearing with regard to children's nutrition, emotional growth and mental health, moms and dads find themselves well-informed, with more knowledge that will allow them to assist their child in becoming healthier and smarter. More discerning, they are also open to the idea that an excellent nutritional foundation is the key to optimum development.

One particular area of concern for parents is their child's mental health. For parents of children in the early school age, which ranges from 3 to 6, a knowledge of the processes involved in their child's brain development keeps them in stride and provides them with information to make sure that they can assist in their child's development in every way.

One of the more recent findings related to brain development is the importance of DHA. DHA stands for Docosahexaeonic acid, the long chain of polyunsaturated fatty acid found in human milk. It is an important component in brain development, specifically because it is a primary building block of the human brain and retinal tissue. To provide support for superior brain development, a steady supply of DHA is required.

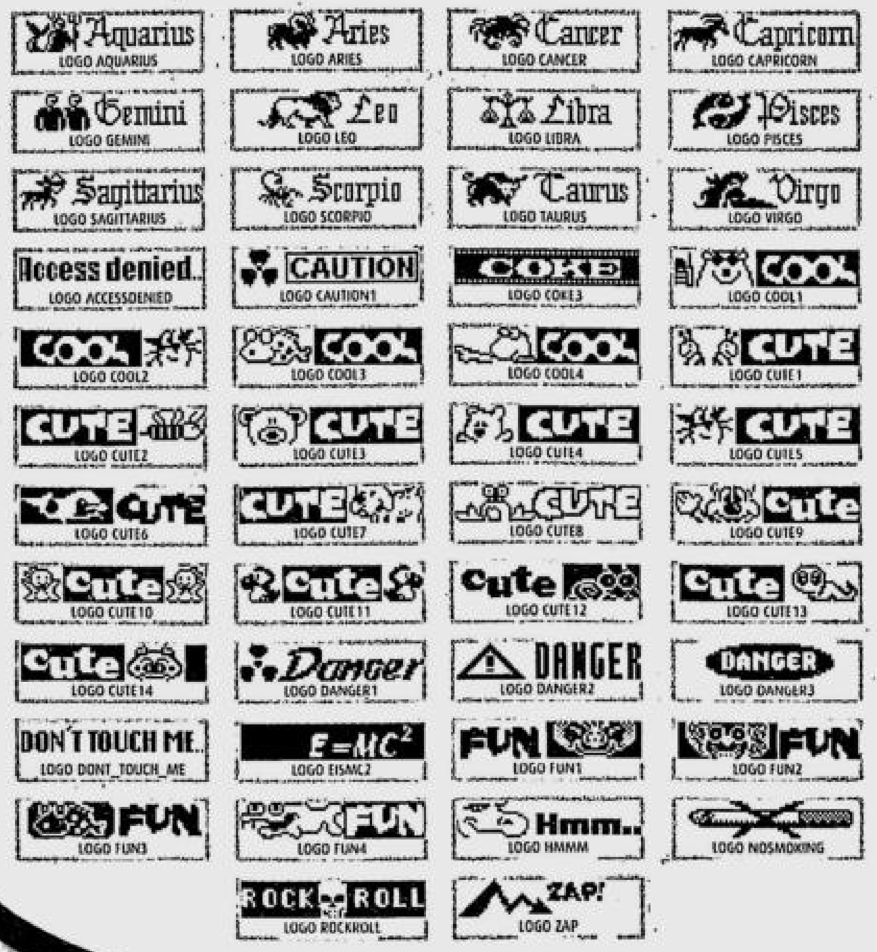
A natural adequate supply of DHA depends on the amount of its precursor in a child's diet. Significant amounts of DHA's precursor, called Alpha Linolenic Acid, can be found in very few vegetable oils and fish oils. This makes inclusion of such sources of DHA in a child's diet very difficult. Because of taste preference in children and the availability of enough vegetables and fish in their diet, there is a need to supplement their diet with DHA.

With the brain growing daily, it is important that a child gets an adequate supply of DHA. Enfakid is one such product. Developed by Mead Johnson to support the nutritional and brain development needs of children, Enfakid is the fourth stage in the Mead Johnson line of formulas that caters to the specific needs of children in different stages of growth.

Prepare your child for school by providing him with the right nutrition plus lots of love. With your constant guidance and DHA-packed Enfakid, your child will definitely be on the right track.

logos

signs



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LOGO SCORPIO
LOGO TAURUS
LOGO VIRGO
LOGO ACCESSDENIED
LOGO CAUTION1
LOGO COKE3
LOGO COOL1
LOGO COOL2
LOGO COOL3
LOGO COOL4
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LOGO CUTE14
LOGO DANGER1
LOGO DANGER2
LOGO DANGER3
LOGO DONT_TOUCH_ME
LOGO EISMC2
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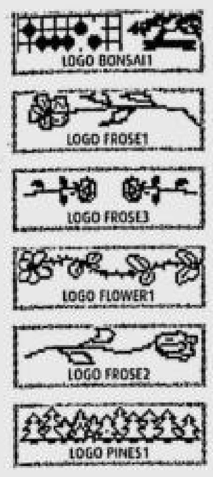
LOGO NOSMOKING
LOGO ROCKROLL
LOGO ZAP

plants



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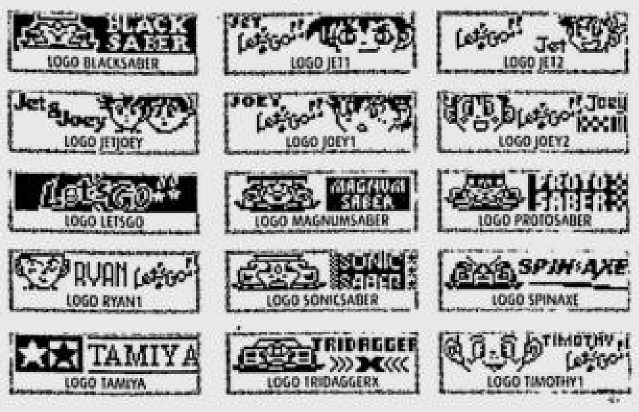

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LOGO LETSGO
LOGO MAGNUMSABER
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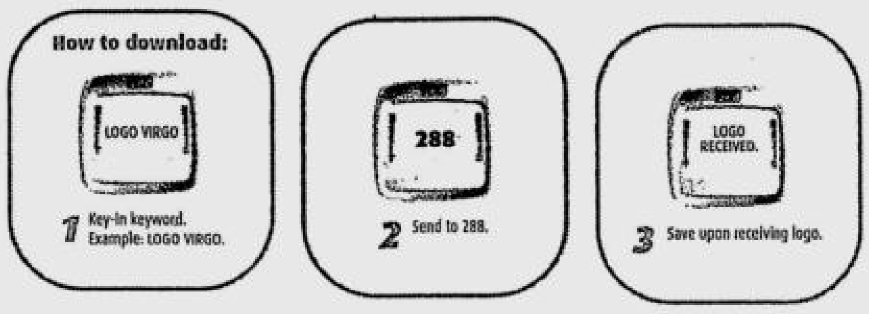

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Fantasy	Earth Wind and Fire	TONE FANTASY
It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	TONE MYTBU
Light My Fire	The Doors	TONE MAFIRE
New York New York	Frank Sinatra	TONE NEWYORK
Proud Mary	Credence Clearwater Revival	TONE PROUDMRY
Rock Around The Clock	Billy Haley & The Comets	TONE ROCKAROU
The Hustle	Van McCoy	TONE HUSTLE
You Needed Me	Anne Murray	TONE UNIDME

opm

description	artist/composer	keyword
Burn	Kulay	TONE BURN
Delicious	Kulay	TONE DELICIOUS
Mister Love	South Border	TONE MRLOVE
Remember Me	DaPULIS!	TONE REMBERME

party

description	artist/composer	keyword
Better off Allone	Alice Dee Jay	TONE OFFALONE
Big Pimpin	Jay-Z	TONE BIGPIMPN
Children	Robert Miles	TONE CHLDRN
Conga	Miami Sound Machine	TONE CONGA
Love Shack	B52's	TONE LUVSHAK
Sweet like Chocolate	Shanks	TONE CHOCLT
Together Again	Janet Jackson	TONE 2GDERAGN
Vengabus(We Like to Party)	Venga Boys	TONE VENGABUS

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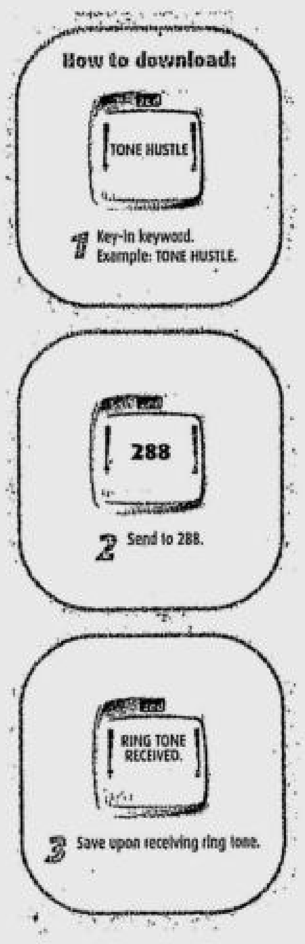

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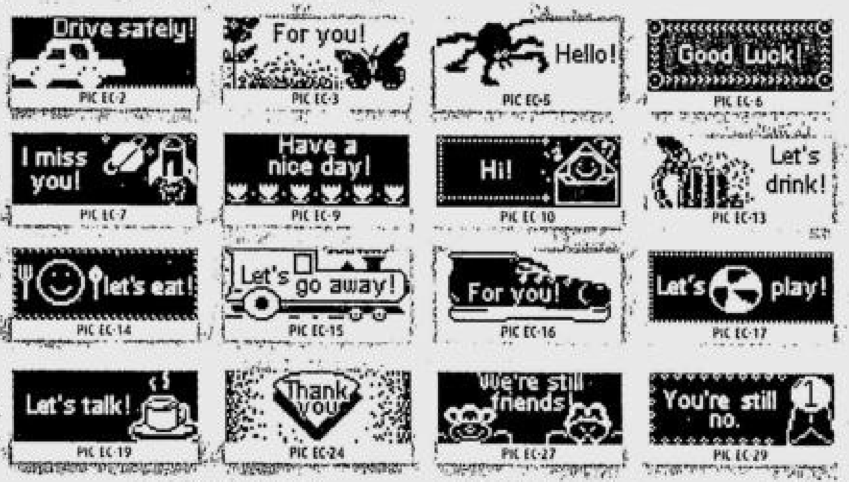
2 Send to 288.

3 Save upon receiving ring tone.

Picture Message

everyday


Drive safely!
For you!
Hello!
Good Luck!
I miss you!
Have a nice day!
Hi!
Let's drink!
let's eat!
Let's go away!
For you!
Let's play!
Let's talk!
Thank you
We're still friends
You're still no.
1

PIC EC-2
PIC EC-3
PIC EC-5
PIC EC-6
PIC EC-7
PIC EC-9
PIC EC 10
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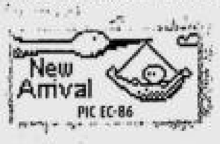
PIC EC-29

baptism



PIC EC-86

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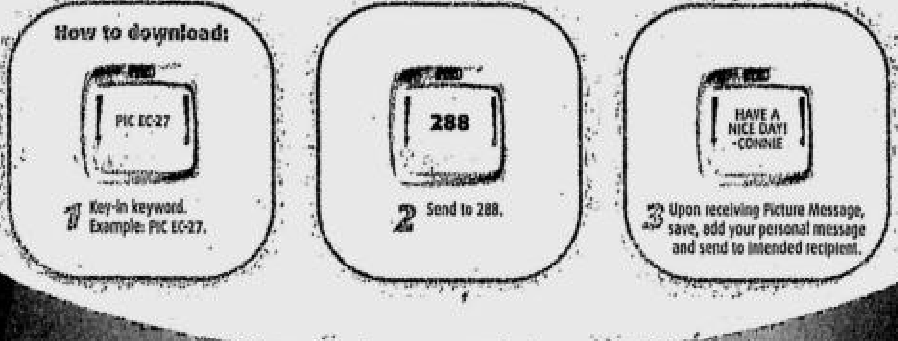
PIC EC-27
288
HAVE A NICE DAY! -CONNIE

1 Key-in keyword. Example: PIC EC-27.

2 Send to 288.

3 Upon receiving Picture Message, save, add your personal message and send to intended recipient.

[illegible]

Treat
of the
Week

SATURDAY,
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Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Orange Whip

1 170g. can NESTLÉ CREAM
3 tbsps. Cointreau
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2 cups water
orange slices for garnish

Combine all ingredients except for garnish in a blender and whip for about 2 min. until frothy. Pour over crushed ice in cocktail glasses. Garnish with orange twists. Serves: 4

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

'Legally Blonde' is totally cute

WITHERSPOON. Can turn somebody annoying into a sympathetic character you want to cheer for.

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE

NEW YORK—Oh my god, you guys. I saw the *best* movie the other day. It was a-DOR-able.

It's called "Legally Blonde," and it's about this blond sorority girl who becomes a lawyer and saves the day. (Of course. How could she not?)

The movie is a lot like 1995's "Clueless," which was also totally cute, in that it has a brain and a heart. And like its heroine, it's a lot smarter than it looks. Hopefully, it'll do more for Reese Witherspoon's career than "Clueless" did for Alicia Silverstone'sz. (Hull-o? Anyone remember "Excess Baggage?")

Expert

Witherspoon plays the fabulously dressed and perfectly coifed Elle Woods: president of the Delta Nu sorority, Miss June in the campus calendar, AND she has a 4.0 grade point average. Oklahoma, so her major is, like, fashion merchandising. The girl is an expert on varying shades of pink.

Elle thinks her gorgeous boyfriend, Warner Huntington III (Matthew Davis), is going to pop the question over a special dinner, but he dumps her instead, telling her that his dreams of being a politician demand that he have a more substantial mate—whatever THAT means.

"If I'm going to be a senator by the time I'm 30, I need to stop (messing) around," Warner tells Elle as she cries in her champagne.

One day at the salon, she gets the BEST idea—she'll show Warner she can be all-serious and stuff by following him to Harvard Law School!

She studies super hard for the law school entrance exam, which her best friends (Jessica Cauffiel and Alanna Ubach) *totally* don't understand.

Video

And the video she makes to go with her application is hys-TER-ical. She had a Coppola direct it, and she appears dressed in an array of sequined bikinis, spouting legal terms as well as the latest "Days of Our Lives" developments.

Her dad doesn't see the point. "Law school is for people who are boring and ugly and serious, and you, button, are none of those things," he tells her, an ever-present martini in hand.

But she gets in! She totally doesn't fit in at first, especially toting her a-DOR-able Chihuahua everywhere she goes, dressed in a matching outfit.

And she's nothing like those uptight East Coast students—especially Vivian Kensington (Selma Blair, who co-starred with Witherspoon in the 1999 guilty pleasure "Cruel Intentions") that horrible blue-blooded snob Warner is dating.

But her keen intuition, unbeatable enthusiasm and impeccable sense of style see her through. She even helps out on a murder trial. How cool is THAT?

(OK, so the movie does drag a bit here, but you can't have everything, you know?)

Witherspoon showed in 1999's "Election" how complete she can make a character, how she can turn somebody annoying into a sympathetic figure you want to cheer for.

Elle isn't nearly as obnoxious as overachieving Tracy Flick in "Election," but she is interminably perky, which would be hard to tolerate on anyone else. Witherspoon appears in nearly every frame of the movie, and she positively sparkles.

"Legally Blonde" is the feature film debut of director Robert Luketic, and he did SUCH an awesome job!

Screenwriters Karen McCullah Lutz (a blond former sorority girl who took fashion merchandising classes) and Kirsten Smith give her great things to say, and they inject so many cute details.

Her resume is pink—and scented. "I think it gives it a little something extra," she explains to a law professor, smiling. And when she picks up the cordless phone, it's covered in fluffy pink fur.

As a young lawyer working with Elle, Luke Wilson doesn't get to do much but play the straight man, which is too bad because he was so good in "Bottle Rocket" and in small roles in "Rushmore" and "My Dog Skip." *AP*

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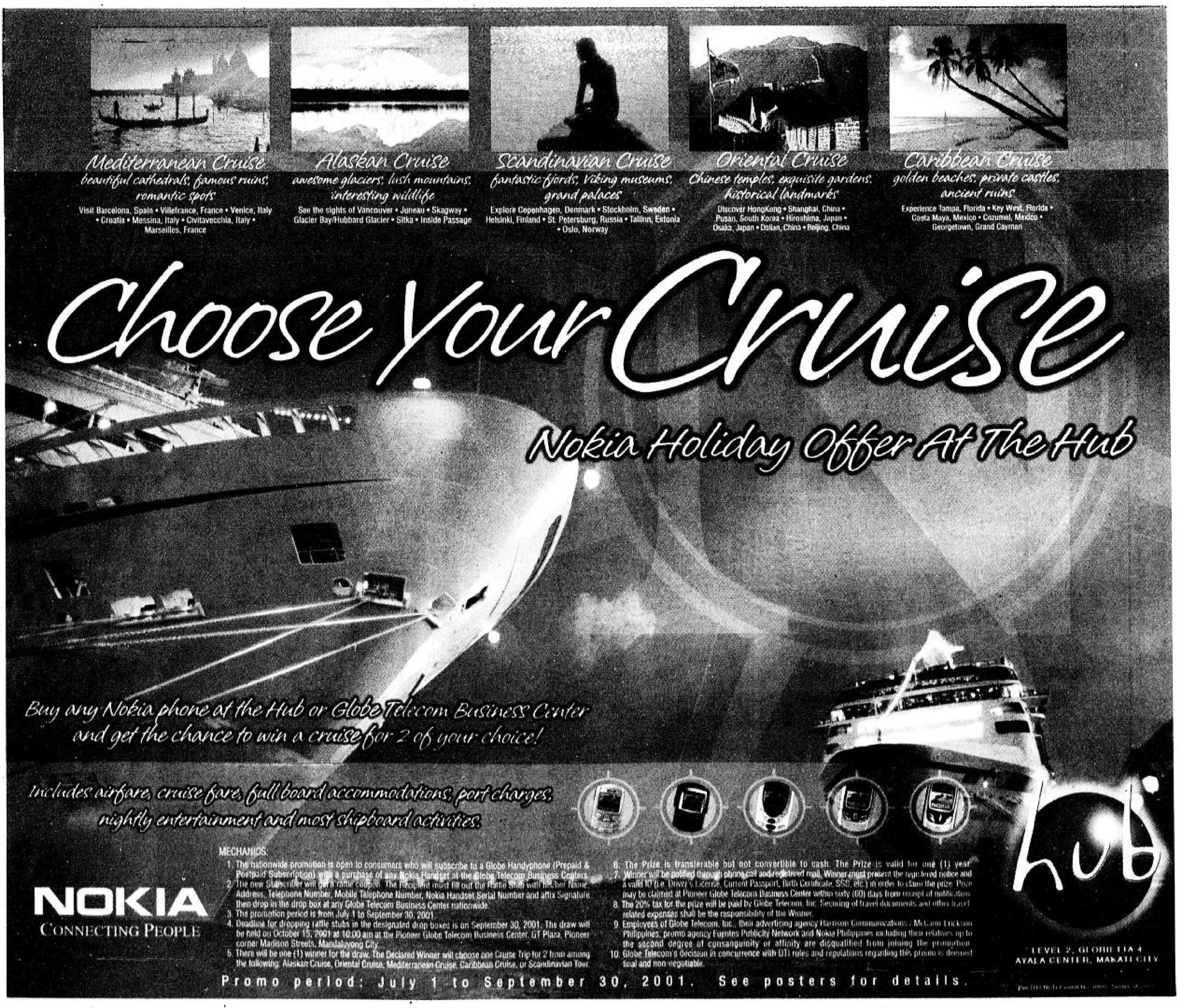

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THE BURIAL scene in "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," complete with the mourners' picture-taking session with the deceased.

Lino Brocka remembered

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Continuation)

AFTER "Santiago," Lino came up with a much smaller film, "Tubog sa Ginto," but the movie ended up getting more than its share of plaudits and honors. This was because it "dared" to depict a "macho" married man (Eddie Garcia) as a closet homosexual who has an affair with a young man (Mario O'Hara). The lover ends up wreaking havoc on the married man's family.

Unusual

The film was deemed unusual because it presented its gay characters as non-swishing types. "Tubog sa Ginto" is distinguished by fine performances (Lolita Rodriguez and Jay Ilagan are also in the cast), and ended up winning the 1970 Famas Best Actor prize for Garcia, and Best Director for Brocka. Lino was on his way!

"Lumuha Pati Mga Anghel" was Lino's super-tearjerker. However, the young director elicited finely felt performances from the child actors in the film, Lorna Tolentino and Arnold Gamboa. At the 1971 Famas awards, Gamboa even romped off with the Best Child Performer award.

"Lumuha..." showed that Lino knew what *masa* viewers wanted by way of extreme emotionalizing, but he was too responsible a director to take things to excess. He gave them a more realistic framework that made this movie less escapist than most.

Later, Lino would do the same with other film types, including bold movies. He would give the public what it wanted, but situate his stories in a more realistic context that kept things from becoming excessive.

Even later, younger directors followed suit, like Laurice Guillen, who rationalized and legitimized the ornate and illogical romantic and *komiks* melodramas of the '80s.

Mixed results

Lino also tried to do the same with his own romantic melodramas, like "Cadena de Amor" and "Villa Miranda," with mixed results.

We remember going on location with Lino for "Villa Miranda," and were impressed with his absolute lack of directorial airs. He slept on the floor of a truck, worked himself to the bone, expected no special treatment—and made sure he got none.

This was a far cry from the "distinguished" way that some other directors comported themselves on movie sets in those days, replete with "dramatic" directorial behavior and avid acolytes hanging on to their every word. Thus, as Lino "democratized" the movies he was making, he did the same for the moviemaking situation obtaining in those days.

But the time came when he could no longer "play ball" with his producers in terms of commercial compromise. He agreed to do so early in his career, but he had developed so much as a filmmaker that he had to express himself with full integrity.

In the commercial film scene, that proved to be well-nigh impossible, so Brocka took the very risky step of cutting off the umbilical cord of mainstream moviemaking, and forming his own movie company.

He couldn't do this alone, of course, so a group of friends pitched in and formed Cine Manila. The new company's first production was "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," Lino's satirical view of the hypocrisy of life in a small town.

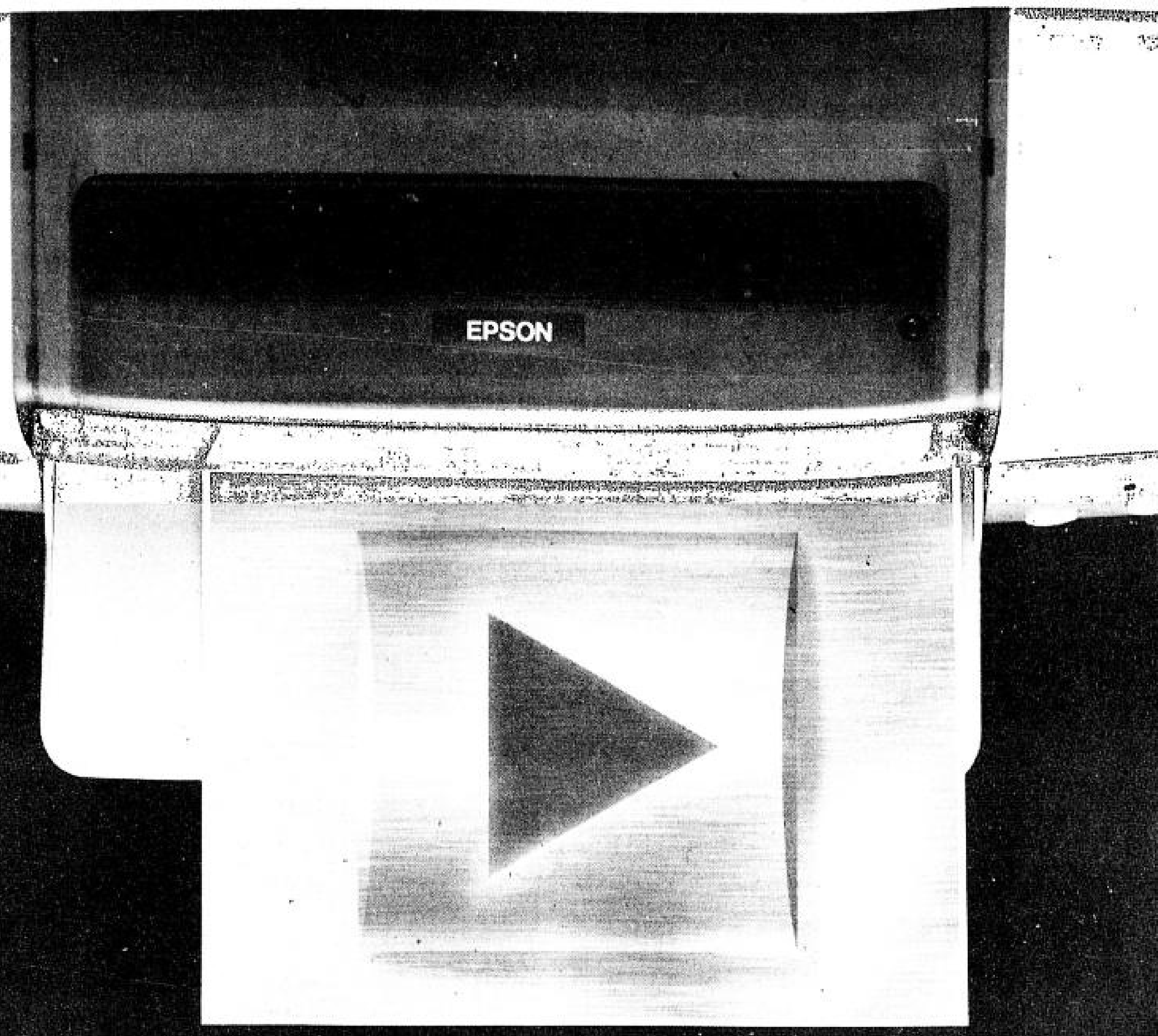
Required viewing

Although the film starred Lino's regulars like Lolita Rodriguez, Eddie Garcia and Hilda Koronel, as well as newcomer Christopher de Leon, its chances at the tills were deemed rather bleak—until the company got the heads of Catholic schools to believe in the movie so much that they assigned it as required viewing for their students.

All those Catholic girls and boys dutifully trooping to the theaters made "Tinimbang..." an unexpected hit. In fact, it was the first "quality" Filipino movie to hit it big at the box office.

It encouraged other producers to line up "quality" projects of their own. And Eddie Romero says that the movie's unexpected success was what prompted him to come home from the States, where he was directing American films, and to once again direct Filipino movies.

Romero came up with excellent films like "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon" and "Banta ng Kahapon," so the box office success of "Tinimbang..." had a wonderful "ripple effect" that redounded to the advantage of Filipino film buffs in the late '70s. *(To be concluded)*



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Dengue alert: High fever can dehydrate your child

From January to July this year, dengue fever cases nationwide rose to an alarming 5,099. This figure is almost 50% higher compared to the same period last year.

As a concerned parent, dengue is indeed a cause for worry. But the best way to address this disease is to be better informed – about what causes it, what can be done to prevent it from spreading and what to do in case your child is suffering from it.

What is dengue?

Dengue fever is an acute infectious disease caused by a virus. It is transmitted through the bite of the female *Aedes* mosquito. After an incubation period of five to eight days, an individual suffers from severe flu-like illness and the following symptoms: fever, chills, severe headache, joint pain and sweating. While the symptoms may seem to subside in two to four days, a rise in temperature occurs followed by the appearance of rashes.

General weakness and low blood pressure occur which make recovery slow. A complication of the disease, dengue hemorrhagic fever, may follow – causing hemorrhage, shock, enlargement of the liver and circulatory failure.

How to avoid dengue

Dengue can be controlled or prevented by observing environmental sanitation. Bear in mind that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito generally acquire the dengue-causing virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person, so it pays to eradicate the mosquito population by destroying their breeding places.

The *Aedes* mosquito breeds primarily in stagnant water found in jars, drums and other open containers. So make it a point to properly dispose of plastic food containers or used automobile tires that may collect rainwater. Stock garden ponds with guppies, mollies or other fishes that feed on mosquito larvae. Cover water containers to prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs. The regular spraying of insecticide may also help in curbing the mosquito population.

If possible, use screening materials to cover windows and doors. In communities identified to be at high-risk of a dengue outbreak, it would be wise to involve yourself and your household in community-wide programs such as fumigation and fogging.

What to do in case your child has dengue

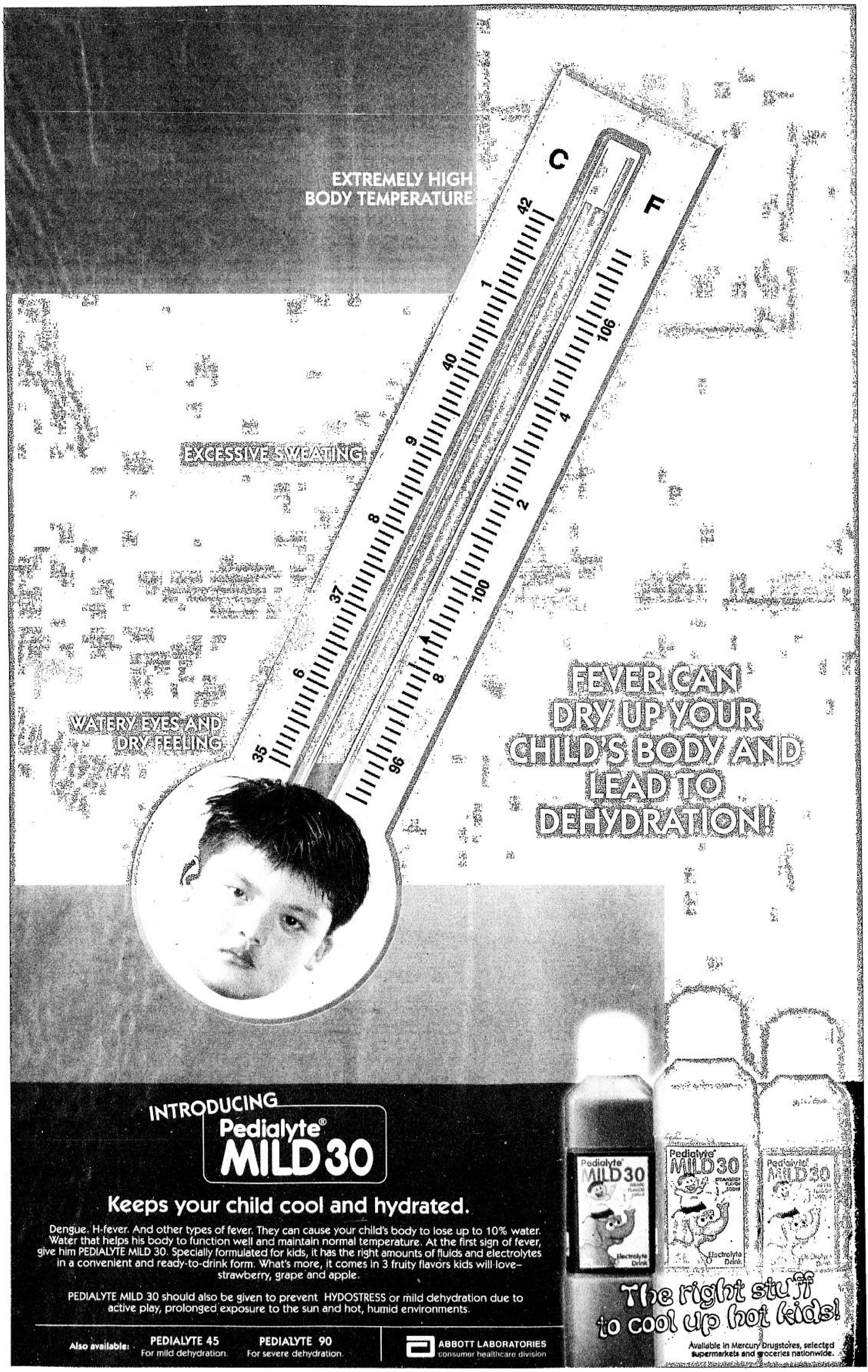
Despite the advances in modern medicine, there is still no specific treatment for dengue fever. A vaccine to protect against all four different viruses that cause the disease is still many years away.

If your child exhibit the symptoms of dengue, it would be better to send him right away to the hospital where experienced physicians can give him good nursing care and careful clinical management including supportive therapy. The replacement of circulating fluid through blood transfusion is widely used to manage the recovery of patients.

Fight the dehydrating effects of Dengue fever

Since any type of fever like dengue hemorrhagic fever can cause dehydration or loss of a significant amount of bodily water – in fact, up to 10% – it would be best to give your child a mild electrolyte replacement drink like **Pedialyte Mild 30.** Bodily fluid replacement is crucial at this point to help his body maintain normal temperature. **Pedialyte Mild 30** contains the right amounts of fluids and electrolytes to help your child's body to cool up and retain water. Ready-to-drink straight from its hygienic container, **Pedialyte Mild 30** comes in three fruity flavors kids will love.

Dengue fever is a serious problem. But proper supportive therapy from your physician, your caring and **Pedialyte Mild 30** can help nurse your child back to good health.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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Changing your fortune with George Sison

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA & RICKY T. GALLARDO

AFTER hosting a talk show with Gloria Diaz in the late '70s and being a permanent fixture on "Two for the Road" with the late Elvira Manahan and NUT, friends encouraged George Sison to host again. On Sunday, July 29 at 11:30 p.m., GMA 7 will air a special, "Will Your Fortune in the Game of Life," hosted by George and Amelyn Veloso.

The special aims to reach every sector of society by showing people that there's a way of improving their lives by changing their thoughts.

Guest Simonette Delos Reyes-Ferraren narrates how she got pregnant after several doctors told her that she could never have a baby. Actor Juan Rodrigo talks about his dream house and how he acquired it. Taxi driver Edu Adelantar shares how his income increased. Leila and Patricia Pañares recall how their relationship as mother and daughter improved.

"People can have a healthy balance of life by changing the way they think. We want to uplift their spirits and ease their despair. We will talk about principles of living in a practical sense and relate it to the viewer's life," George says.

If the special receives good feedback, it might become a once-a-month special.

Make way for Jam Melendez

He's new, he's young, but he's unafraid of what the biz will make of him in the future—despite the painful lessons already learned by his parents, Deborah Sun and the late Jimi Melendez, when they were once devoured by show business.

Jam Melendez left a normal life—and his mom, too—in New York right after the untimely demise of his actor-dad, and took a crack at Philippine show business. His initial efforts, despite his being part of the famous Salvador clan, didn't bear much fruit, except for a few TV guestings and a semi-regular stint in the short-lived "TGIS, 2nd Generation."

Jam didn't lose heart, though, and went back to school. Jam's decision to wait has paid off: he has a plum role in "The Red Diaries."

The film required Jam to do a butt-baring sequence and the young lad agreed without qualms. "It's no big deal," he says. "I was brought up in New York—very open, very liberal-minded, with a very modern way of thinking."

Jam has high hopes that, after the film is shown, influential people in the business will take notice of him. "I really want to be an actor and I hope the good breaks keep coming my way. Wherever my dad is now, and even if my mom is so far away, I want my folks to be proud of me because I followed their footsteps and I did my best."

Hurrah for Pepe Pimentel!

Over the weekend, while cruising along Roces ave. in Quezon City, something caught our attention: There was a man taking out the litter and doing some emergency gardening on the plants battered by the heavy rains and the polluted air.

A few minutes passed, and a group of street kids joined him, putting the trash and dried leaves and stems into a garbage bag. We asked one of the kids who the familiar-looking man was. The boy replied, "*Si Tito Pepe po.*" A bystander added, "*Si* Pepe Pimentel, *punong barangay malapit dito, lagi niyang ginagawa 'yan.*"

Mabuhay ka, Tito Pepe! If only limelight-grabbing and publicity-hungry politicians, specially those who have crossed over from the celebrity world, will learn a lesson or two from you about what true public service is, then there'll be hope for us all in these very disturbing times.

Hunger that hits the heart

We take our hats off to Anne Torres and "The Correspondents" for a very insightful episode last Monday about hunger.

Torres even spend a night with one of the families who, despite having nothing, made sure that their visitor would at least have some crackers and juice for dinner.

SISON. Back on TV.

Our hearts went out specially to the children who shared one tomato for a meal, and to the family of the *balut* vendor who made us aware that there are still those who survive because "*nagdidildil sila ng asin*"—literally!

We went to bed perplexed, bothered by what we saw and heard, feeling helpless because good intentions cannot satisfy hundreds of empty stomachs while we gorge on midnight snacks and fresh milk before we sleep.

Happy birthday, Tito Dougs!

Low key but highly regarded talent manager and line producer Douglas Quijano celebrated his 57th birthday last Tuesday at Padi's Point in Cubao.

Tito Dougs, as he is fondly addressed, entertained his well-wishers with music, wine and free-flowing food until way past midnight. Spotted were Bench top honcho Ben Chan who came with Architect Miguel Pastor, Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres, Anjo Yllana with wife Jackie, hunks John Estrada and Jomari Yllana, sisters Gelli and Janice de Belen (who still wrote Estrada when she signed her name on the birthday wishboard), Joed Serrano and Robby Tarroza, Jestoni Alarcon, Eric Fructuoso, Nadia Montenegro, LJ Moreno, Maricar de Mesa, Maryo J. de los Reyes, Thirdy Escaño, and Joey Gosiengfiao.

Have a great year ahead, Tito Dougs!

The Madz continue to soar

Things are coming up roses for the world-renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers this season. There's a lot of rejoicing going on over at Prof. Andrea Veneracion's camp and here are some reasons why:

First, their back-to-back albums from BMG Records are doing well. We got both CDs and we take our hats off to the very polished live recording of "Around the World," where 12 priceless cuts are featured, including "Bituing Walang Ningning," "Yanni's Aria," "The Prayer," "Duerme Negrito" and "Pater Noster."

For all romantic hopefuls, The Madz also have their version of classic love songs in their "Madz in Love" CD which contains our favorites "What Matters Most," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "An Affair to Remember."

Second, the group has come up with a special coffee table book that chronicles their most memorable moments in the world's most prestigious music and choral competitions. Designed by virtual artist and poet Sid Gomez Hildawa, who is also the concurrent visual arts director of the CCP, the book will be launched tomorrow at the CCP. This early, the first printing has elicited a lot of reservations from top corporations and from book collectors alike. After the book launch, The Madz will perform in a special concert at the main theater.

It seems not so long ago when the group came home victorious with the Grand Prix Européen du Chant Choral competition top plum which they won in Tours, France. And here they are captivating us with the stuff that has made them priceless cultural treasures of our country.

Thank God for lawyers

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

FOR the longest time in my life. I didn't have a healthy regard for lawyers. For me, theirs wasn't as impressive a profession as others. Like, doctors cure ailments and save lives, engineers build houses and huge edifices, teachers mould minds and character—but what do lawyers do except make already miserable lives even more miserable?

In trouble

I thought that you only needed lawyers when you were in trouble. But, the way I looked at it then, lawyers had mastered the art of getting you in even bigger trouble, with you ending up thanking and paying then fat fees for it, to boot.

And, from where I sat, lawyers were such liars. They just did it elegantly and with remarkable aplomb. It helped a lot that they spoke a language all their own, the kind of English that, I was sure, even the English found difficult to comprehend.

Also, I somehow felt that lawyers encouraged people to break the law. I used to believe that, for as long as you had the bucks to pay for the services of the best attorney, you'd never know what prison life was like.

I remember, when a brother first expressed his desire to become a lawyer, I tried hard but failed to understand. Of course, I knew that lawyers earned good money but, naive as I was, I didn't consider money then to be the most important consideration in choosing a lifetime career.

Importance

It's been only lately that I have understood the importance of lawyers in our lives. And I don't just mean the insights I got about lawyers during the impeachment trial of President Erap. (Like, not all lawyers speak perfect English after all. And, even if you were the richest and most powerful man in this part of the world, you could still go to jail.)

What I really meant were the many difficulties I've found myself in that necessitated my consulting lawyers. I don't want to go into the grisly details but suffice it to say that I've had sufficient experience with lawyers to know that there are many kinds of them.

Let's start off with the show-off. They have flashy clothes, flashy cars and even flashier smiles. They dine in five-star restaurants where they expect to be seen—and heard. Yes, they usually have such booming voices that when they laugh, the room shakes.

They are also fantastic name-droppers. They love it when they're having dinner with you in some fancy, pricey place and someone famous sidles up to them just to say Hi! They're the type who'd tell you they played golf with Prince Charles and the king of Brunei, if they thought you'd believe it.

Designer perfume

Their haircut costs a minimum-wage earner's entire monthly salary, and they wear 18-karat stones for cufflinks. And you can smell them a mile away because they reek of the most expensive designer perfume.

But they're perfect if your opponent in the legal skirmish you are entangled in is the type who easily gets intimidated by the scent and look of power. And they're generally good for every penny of the plump retainer you need to cough up to hire their services. These show-off lawyers usually have the staff to do all the necessary research and voluminous paper work—and the brilliant minds to come up with the most ingenious juggernaut to bail you out of your woes.

Then, there are the aggressive lawyers. Somehow, they always want to go to war. You unload your problems on them and they come up with a blueprint for battle. They have room for compromise, In their thesaurus, settlement is not a synonym for wisdom.

They can reduce prevaricating witnesses to submission with the sheer power of their stare. They are very good with words, are prone to eloquence and bombast to hammer home a fine legal point or dazzle everyone with the brilliance of their opinion.

They are perfect for situations where your legal enemy is hard and vicious. Of course, sometimes, you get this nagging thought: Wouldn't it be a better tack to work at your problem with less fire and brimstone and more caution and circumspection?

Diplomacy

There's also the unassuming, humble type. Diplomacy is their middle name. They patiently listen to you as you regurgitate to them your legal problems and they advise you to wait, allow things to simmer down, create situations where the sobriety of the mind will be supreme to the passion of the heart.

They go for amicable solutions to even the most acrimonious legal situations. They are the wizards of off-court settlements. For them, going to court should be the last recourse.

And even when the case has been filed, they'd rather delay and delay until both sides get so tired that they now find settlement the ideal situation—even if only so they'd no longer have to go back to court.

They are usually soft-spoken and they use well-chosen words to convey their thoughts and opinions. Sometimes, you go on and on with your ill feelings of rage, rancor, doubts, fears and anxieties, but they just keep quiet. Then, you find that their silence is soothing.

Of course, there are times that you find yourself asking if it were better and more prudent to act together in order to make your case more favorable to your side.

Family

There are also the "paternal" lawyers. There's something deeply personal about the way they treat you. You get the unmistakable feeling that they genuinely care for you, that you're not just a client. That you're family. That you are loved.

And they usually have a wealth of experience to generously use to help you, along with all the connections they've developed through the years. Indeed, there's so much more to lawyering than what's written in the law books.

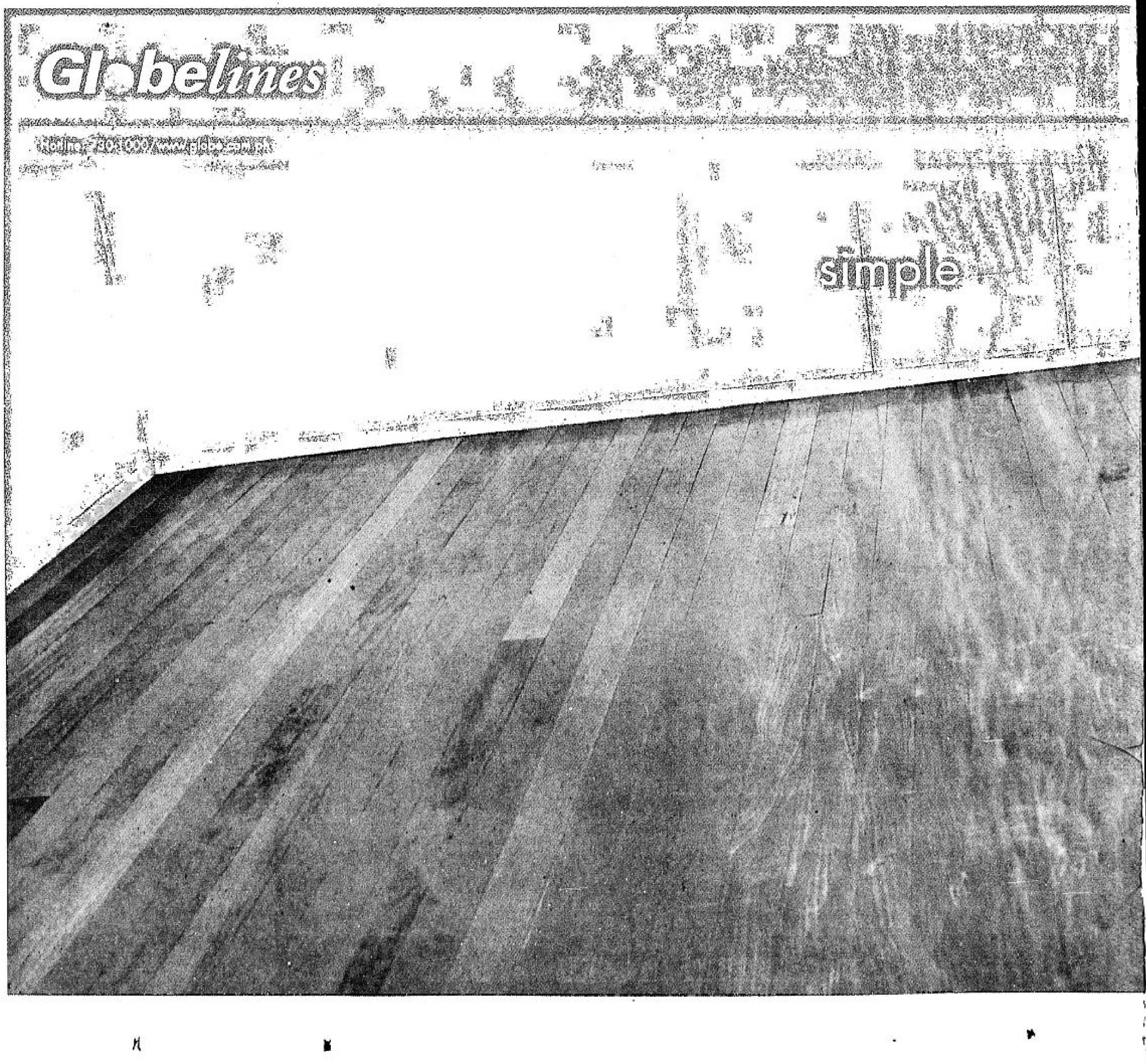
The downside to "paternal" lawyers is that they're sometimes too tired or comfortable to go the extra mile to brush up on the latest laws and statutes, relying on their experience and connections to get them by. There's a genuine possibility that a frisky but studious lawyer can stump them with the latest legal mumbo-jumbo. Law is such a dynamic field that part of the job of lawyers is to keep abreast of the fast-changing trends and developments in their profession.

Grateful

Now, I'm very appreciative and very grateful to all of the lawyers who have helped me in the innumerable legal difficulties I've had in my life. Thank God for lawyers! Without them, I don't know where I'd be now.

I've discovered that we should always consult lawyers in everything we do. Like, had I the advice of lawyers before making a lot of small and big decisions in the past, I wouldn't have fallen into the pits that I suddenly found myself in.

Lawyers? I can't live without them!



Barbie's Cradle remains grounded and simple

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

FEMALE vocalists rarely merit a second glance amidst the all-male genres such as punk-rock and alternative music—unless they do girly-girly, sweet pop music in the mold of Britney Spears. Or act sexy and saucy like girl groups Destiny's Child and All Saints. Or have the angst and grit of Alanis Morisette.

Sometimes, however, female vocalists can break the mold and still click with music lovers. Barbie's Cradle has done just that by putting a positive and light twist to their sound.

Happier songs

Barbie Almalbis (vocals) and Wendell Garcia (drums) agree that their current album, "Music From the Buffet Table" has fewer sad and painful undertones. "The album is generally happier than the first. Some songs are still inspired by love and longing, though this time they're viewed in a lighter way. Each track shows how we've learned to accept things as they are," Barbie clarifies.

The track, "Langit Na Naman," a revival of the Hotdogs song seems a bit too cheesy, compared to their previous hits. "We don't have a particular preference at all when it comes to the music that we play. As long as it sounds good and we sound good doing it, we'll perform it," Wendell grins.

Barbie composes songs whatever the mood she's in. She can write when she's lonely, depressed and confused. Each song has a hidden story behind it.

"'Shiny Red Balloon,' was a surprise. When I wrote it, I was only beginning to accept that maybe I wasn't truthfully in love. 'Dear Paul' is about a boy I liked in grade school.

'Money for Food' is about my dilemma: Maybe I should stay in school and learn to make a living selling things I don't like. Singing is a luxury and when you can't afford it, you'll starve," Barbie shares.

Inspiration

Barbie gets her inspiration from everyday life. But she claims that she doesn't have a particular audience in mind when she begins to write. "We please ourselves first, that's where it starts. Usually when you start targeting audiences, you get lost and people can sense that you're not being real. Be sincere and people will feel it," Barbie smiles.

Barbie's Cradle is currently touring bars and coffee shops to promote their current album. Things are looking up but being in a band can be a struggle. "It can be rigorous and tedious, if you don't have the passion for music. If you don't enjoy it, it can be difficult. It's not about being a girl or guy vocalist anymore, it's about dedication, hard work and passion," Barbie relates.

They make it a point to rehearse even if they don't have a gig. Jamming makes their bond stronger and allows them to iron out kinks in cover songs. How do they stay grounded? "Remembering the tough times make you humble. Keeping a sense of humor also helps," Wendell jests.

"The tough times make you appreciate what you do. It's about attitude and music. When Franklin (an old member) left the band, I was going through other difficult changes. Sometimes my old fears come back, but when something good happens, it's easier to let go," Barbie grins.

Record deal

They have a record deal, regular gigs and a loyal fan base but the gangmates want to keep their feet firmly planted on the ground.

Essential tips to remember if you want to stay in a band:

1. Rehearse until you get the perfect sound. Some bands practice from noon until midnight whether they have a gig or not. Keeping your act together makes you achieve perfection.

2. Be creative and innovative. Don't get stuck with your old formula (musical style.) Experiment with new chord progressions.

3. Learn to save money.

4. Write your own music. Being signed up by a record company happens faster if you have your own original music.

5. Don't be an airhead. Turning off people with inflated egos is a no-no. Receiving compliments and praises can be a good ego-booster but stay humble!

BARBIE'S CRADLE. Being in a band can be a struggle.

Adul de Leon was an original

By Behn Cervantes

AS freshmen at UP Diliman in 1956, it was easy for us to be in awe of the huge, green campus complete with a golf course and Little Quiapo where a minimall thrived for the residents of the 600-hectares university site.

UP had its own infirmary, a building for every college, two swimming pools, a racing oval, a huge gym as well as an early Lindy Locsin-designed chapel where both Protestants and Catholics worshipped alternately. Those spreading acacia tree branches were awesome, to say the least.

Huge

After being entrapped in the single building that was De La Salle College on Taft ave. then, the UP Republic, as it was called, looked huge to us in every way. Imagine what it was like to walk from one building to the next for our classes under the protection of those trees!

What a thrill it was to sit in the Liberal Arts Building lobby to watch some of the most beautiful coeds in the Philippines saunter by in their best attire.

The coeds didn't dare come to class in the informal manner kids do now. In fact, some were downright overdressed—they arrived complete with high heels and four petticoats that made their skirts balloon and ever so slightly bop as they paraded themselves for all to admire. They were gorgeous!

ADUL (right) with Pinky de Leon and Tommy Aguirre.

There was the delectable combination of beauty and brains Josie Trinidad, now Lichaucco. Her sisters in the Sigma Delta Phi Sorority were some of the most fantastic campus belles who made many young men join the Upsilon Sigma Phi.

Among them was vibrant and talented Maureen Tiongco, who soon after headed for Broadway to star in the original "Flower Drum Song" directed by Gene Kelly.

Heads did a double-take when statuesque and hazel-eyed Dee Marquez, a *balikbayan* from Schenectady, New York would walk from class to class. She became one of the mainstays of Manila's early society fashion shows.

Tall goddess

The only other *mestiza* who attracted as much attention as Dee was a tall goddess from Zamboanga named Joan Kosloff. Another beauty and brains combination was Elena San Juan of the Chemistry Department.

There was also the petite but very smart and talented Cherry Santos who was starring in many important UP Dramatic Club plays under playwright Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero. Gorgeous coeds were in abundance in UP in my time, I tell you no lies!

There were tall ones, petite ones, classy ones and fresh beauties from all over the country. The common denominator was that they all carried themselves with the confidence that they were *mga iskolar ng bayan*. Despite their coy denials, they secretly enjoyed the adulation of the young men whose testosterone levels were at their peak.

However, there were a lot of original coeds, too. They were not beauties in the conventional manner but they had style. They were *originals*.

One of them was a dark and slim coed named Adelina de Leon. She was an English major whose gang included the pedigreed Rita Kalaw Ledesma, now Gonzales; Odette Benito, now Alcantara; Mimi Pintoy, a daughter of a general and sister of *arnis* expert Roland Dantes; Jo Makasiar, now a Puno; and the one and only Lina Castrence—still a Castrence.

The group liked to ape the Ilokano accent so after some experimentation Adelina became Ad-dool-leenah that in time was shortened to Adul.

Liberated woman

The name Adul fit her to a T. She dressed rather exotically. She had thick black hair and wore bangs. She smoked like many modern girls did. She could trade repartees and green jokes. She was a liberated woman in the late '50s.

ADUL/ p.C6

Rammstein loves to toy with the dark side of

RAMMSTEIN. Propensity for basic instincts.

By Pocholo Concepcion

OF the East German band Rammstein, a number of items may prove to be interesting:

It is one of Europe's most successful rock groups, by virtue of the release of its 1995 debut album, "Herzeleid," which went platinum in several Western countries. The follow-up, "Sehnsucht" (released 1997, debuted in America in 1998), was said to have been more successful, going platinum in Germany and in the US, and garnering a string of music awards in Europe.

High praises

Noted rock journalists in the States (Chuck Eddy, Charles Young) have only high praises for a band that is proudly Kraut—recording songs in the German language without bothering to slip in English translations.

Film director David Lynch ("Blue Velvet," "Twin Peaks") was so impressed with Rammstein that he licensed two of its songs for the soundtrack of "Lost Highway," even before the band had released an album in America.

Its live act has attained legendary status, prompting the popular '70s band Kiss to invite Rammstein to play as special guests on a South American tour.

In the North American leg of that tour, local authorities in Massachusetts ordered the removal of Rammstein onstage for lascivious conduct. The band members actually ended up in jail.

Black comedy

It is also said that Rammstein loves to toy with the dark side of desire, overdoing it at times to the point of flaunting black comedy.

As the "Mutter" ("Mother") CD plays on, we are reminded of the muscular aural structure that the likes of Metallica and other metal-based bands have popularized over the years.

But what makes Rammstein stand out is the way it seamlessly blends metal, industrial, techno and classical music. In addition, this band's flair for moody, brooding vocal delivery makes for some kind of drama-inflected sonic treat.

The arrangements in "Mein Herz Brennt" ("My Heart Is Burning") and "Links 2 3 4" ("Left 2 3 4") suggest contrasting images of love and aggression, seduction and assault.

Sinister sounding is the narrative in "Sonne" ("Sun")—a dominant feature also contained in the careening violence in "Feuer Fre!" ("Fire Free").

Primal needs

The emotional declarations in the title track echo the complexity of life and its primal needs and fears. Similarly, we appreciate the quaint appeal of "Spieluhr" ("Music Box") and "Zwitter" ("Hermaphrodite").

About the sexual angles: we are very much tempted to assume that there's plenty of carnal friction in "Ich Will" ("I Want") and "Rein Raus" ("In, Out"), although it might be more prudent to theorize that Rammstein's propensity for basic instincts is, well, just a manner of playing around with the literary device known as irony.

Martial beats

The band has a natural love for martial beats that somehow remind us of such mighty Aryan symbols as Hitler and the whole disgusting caboodle personified in the neo-Nazi image.

Then again, it's so stupid to deny that the members of Rammstein (keyboardist Flake Loren, bass player Oliver Riedel, drummer Christoph Schneider, guitarists Paul Landers and Richard Kruspe-Bernstein, and vocalist Till Lindemann) are anything but German.

The thing about Rammstein that highlights its macho aura to positive heights is the will and determination to shine in the generically boring field of metal rock.

Heavy as it already is with the typical crunch of metal, Rammstein is several notches up above the others because it completes the entire musical experience through lyrical mood and character.

(The author wishes to thank Ms Ann Marie Gutierrez of the Goethe-Institute for providing translations to the German song titles.)

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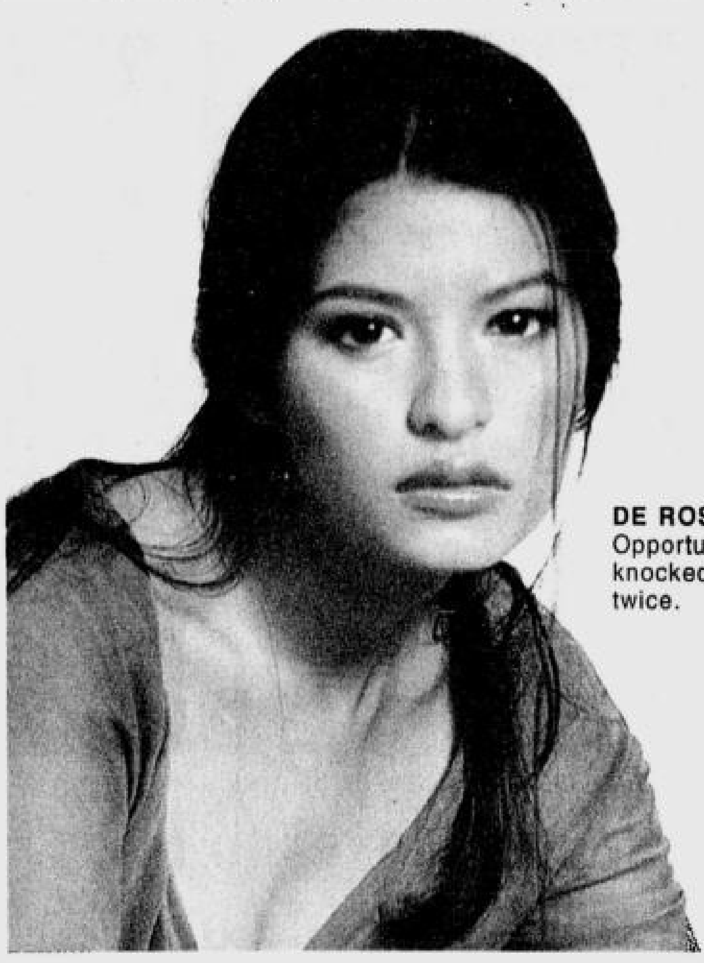


DE ROSSI. Opportunity knocked twice.

Assunta de Rossi stars in 'Red Diaries

By Edmund L. Sicam

FORMER "That's Entertainment" regular Assunta de Rossi makes her bid for stardom in the much hyped Regal presentation, "Red Diaries," which opens next week. She got the assignment after it was turned down by Ara Mina, Ina Raymundo and Priscilla Almeda.

Change of image

The actress, who turned 18 last February, changes her image to tackle three different roles in the anthology flick. She plays a mistress who is a free spirit, a *balikbayan* who becomes the sexual fantasy of a seminarian and the battered wife of a policeman.

What made Assunta take the bold route? "Opportunity doesn't knock on your door twice," she explains. "I was offered a similar role once but I turned it down because I was still too young. Then I got this offer from Regal and I realized I was probably destined to do bold roles. Besides, I'm already 18 so I think I'm ready for a more mature movie."

Assunta, who has an Italian father and Filipino mom, didn't get much resistance from her parents though some close friends discouraged her from accepting the offer. On the first day of shooting, the scene called for her to seduce Dante Rivero by baring her top and performing a sexy dance. Her knees were shaking when she faced the camera not only because it was a nude scene but also because Rivero was a veteran actor she respected.

Jitters

Her jitters disappeared when director Maryo delos Reyes explained the scene to her and made sure only the crew members essential to the shoot were around. She did the scene in two takes. After the initial stage fright, Assunta felt more comfortable with her other sensitive scenes.

Assunta also had an easy time working with Jam Melendez in the seminarian episode where Jam bares his behind. The role was supposed to go to rapper Carlos Agassi but he felt it was not in keeping with his wholesome image.

However, she did find one sequence where she is gang-raped physically demanding and emotionally exhausting. This is in the third episode, which is the most brutal of the three stories.

When we asked Maryo why he included the story when the other two were lighter, he said he wanted to give Assunta the opportunity to show her potential as an actress. The results are quite encouraging, says the director. In the third episode, she is deglamorized because she plays a maid who is raped by her *amo* and eventually becomes his wife. She goes through a harrowing ordeal because the character played by Carlos Morales considers her more of a sex object rather than a wife.

No frontal nudity

Maryo says he had an easy time working with Assunta. Even before the cameras started rolling, the two met to discuss just how far she was willing to go. She explained she was amenable to breast exposure but frontal nudity was a no-no for her.

Since there was no more time to conduct a workshop, Maryo asked Assunta to watch his film "Paraiso ni Efren" to get an idea of the kind of scenes she might do in her movie.

Assunta explained to us that she found nothing wrong with nudity. "*Lahat naghuhubad sa* Italy," she quips.

When she was growing up in Southern Italy, where she was born, breast exposure was a staple on TV commercials as well as on late-evening shows. She is the eldest of four children (younger sister Alessandra is also an actress) and stayed a few years in England before moving to the Philippines when she was six. The reason for her mobility as a child was the fact that her father worked in the Italian navy.

At age 12, she became a regular on "That's Entertainment." This would lead to movie and TV appearances. Currently, she's part of the ensemble cast of GMA's "Bubble Gang" and was the featured star on "Larawan" for a whole month.

Beauty contest

Now that she is embarking on a new path in her career, she's sidelining her plans to join a beauty contest. There was a time when she was interested in the Bb. Pilibinas pageant but when the movie bug bit her, she postponed the decision.

After "Red Diaries," Assunta will soon be scene in "Sisid" a Seiko project directed by Joey Romero. Here, she is expected to bare more than she did in her first bold movie but she says there still will be no frontal nudity.

Regal Films is hoping the movie will do well at the box office. It is the first bold movie in a long time to be made by a so-called "A" director. Although some of the more explicit scenes were deleted or shortened to conform to the MTRCB's guidelines, Regal insiders feel moviegoers will not cry "*harang*" when they watch the film on the big screen.

Adul de Leon was an original

(From page C5)

The name Adul stuck because the group also performed "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet" for the class of youthful English instructor Isabel "Bebeng" Sevilla, now Soriano. Adul played the Serpent of the Nile with great aplomb. Her coloring, sultry voice and intense looks made Cleopatra a modern vamp.

The little play was a big hit among theater aficionados. Freshmen like Lino Brocka and I were taken by this unique group of young ladies who liked to do it their way. Overstaying student Joonee Gamboa, then mere Junie, became part of the triumvirate that included Lino and me.

Upon our prodding, Adul joined the UP Dramatic Club for the summer musical "Hot November," a spoof of Philippine politics by Rosendo Santos, Jun Roy and Jules Yogore. Again, Adul was given a sexy walk-on part.

Soon, we formed a gang, no matter if she and Joonee were three years ahead of Lino and me. We were sometimes "The Three Stooges" or "The Three Musketeers" depending on our varied moods. Adul reigned as our muse.

We would see a series of movies on some days, never tiring of comparing acting styles and noting the actors' fine points. We discussed plays, philosophy and the meaning of life, often with some beer and a chain of cigarettes, but always with many, many questions on the basic why's of our earthly existence.

Adul smoked and drank with the best of men. Lino neither smoked nor drank. Neither could he understand why we couldn't do without those "vices."

Adul followed mentor Bebeng to FEU where she appeared in plays with Nick Agudo, Butch Josue, Sarah and Tony Joaquin, Bebeng herself and the rest of the Morayta university's Speech and Drama Department.

She dropped out from school completely for reasons unknown to me but she was soon hired to write for Pipol Magazine, a bi-monthly that was edited by Mara Lanot's father. In one issue, she featured me as an original character. (I guess ours was a mutual admiration society.)

In early 1960, she became a disc jockey for "Music by Muzak" that supplied soothing (elevator?) music to Manila Hotel's rooms. Adul did the day shift, while Lino took the graveyard shift. They yearned for company and asked me to visit them.

I often kept them company in that little cubicle in the ground floor of the historic hotel where we watched the society girls going to the fashion shows at the Winter Garden.

Across the booth was the Jungle Bar, a favorite watering hole of the metropolis' bachelors as well as husbands who pretended to be single.

Sexy style

A very young Carmen Soriano, a Miss Manila, was honing her sexy style in the dark bar. The demanding hours were too much for both Lino and Adul so they quit the job and proceeded to search for other options.

Not long after, Bill Kane, brother of ballet mentor Anita, hired Adul to assist him in organizing some of the first Phil-American co-productions shot here in the very early '60s. Since Lino had dropped out of school for financial reasons, Adul who became his soul mate for a long time, included him in the staff. Eddie Romero remembers a quiet and shy Lino doing assistant script boy chores. *(To be concluded)*

It's 'Star Wars' month on Star Movies

MONTAGE

STAR Movies presents the digitally remastered "Star Wars" series for the entire month of August.

The series starts with "Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope" on Aug. 5 with Mark Hamill starring as Luke Skywalker, a farm boy who unites a host of allies in an attempt to rescue the rebel leader Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) from the clutches of the empire. Also starring Harrison Ford, Peter Cushing, Alec Guinness and Anthony Daniels.

"Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes" airs on Aug. 12, "Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi" on Aug.19 and Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace" on Aug. 26.

All movies will be shown at 9 p.m.

'Batibot' performs live in Intramuros

The Intramuros Evenings Performing Arts Series presents the well-loved characters of long-running TV show "Batibot" live today, Saturday, 6:30 p.m. at the Teatrilio, Plaza San Luis Complex, cor. Gen. Luna and Real Sts. (opposite San Agustin Church), Intramuros.

Using games, songs, dances and skits to deliver timely messages are Kuya Joey, Kuya Louie, Kuya Noli, Kuya Pol, Kuya Andrew, Ate Cita, Ate Donna, Ate Ani and Ate Chynna. Produced by the Philippine Children's Television Found. Inc., "Batibot" also stars Koko Kwik Kwak, Mat Maliksi, Kapitan Basa, Ningning and Gingging, with alien friends Sitsirit and Alibangbang.

Intramuros Evenings is a public service presentation of the Department of Tourism under Sec. Richard J. Gordon and its attached agency Intramuros Administration led by Dominador Ferrer Jr. Admission is free. Call 5272961 or 5273138.

U2 on Channel V

U2 is featured on Channel V Int'l's "Speakeasy" on Aug. 5 at 4 p.m.

Bono, Edge, Larry and Adam talk about their newest album, "All That You Can't Leave Behind." Aside from being musical artists, the band has also ventured into films with its production of "The Million Dollar Hotel," which won the Silver Bear award at the Berlin Film Festival.

Mariah Carey in concert

Mariah Carey, along with Jazy-Z, 98 Degrees, Da Brat and DJ Clue perform in "Mariah Carey's Homecoming" on Star World on Aug. 6 at 10 p.m. with a replay on Aug. 7 at 1:30 a.m.

Carey returns to her junior high school in Greenlawn of New York and stages a concert for the students. Mariah performs her greatest hits including "Heartbreaker," "Dreamlover," "Vision of Love," "Can't Take That Away," "Rainbow and "Butterfly.

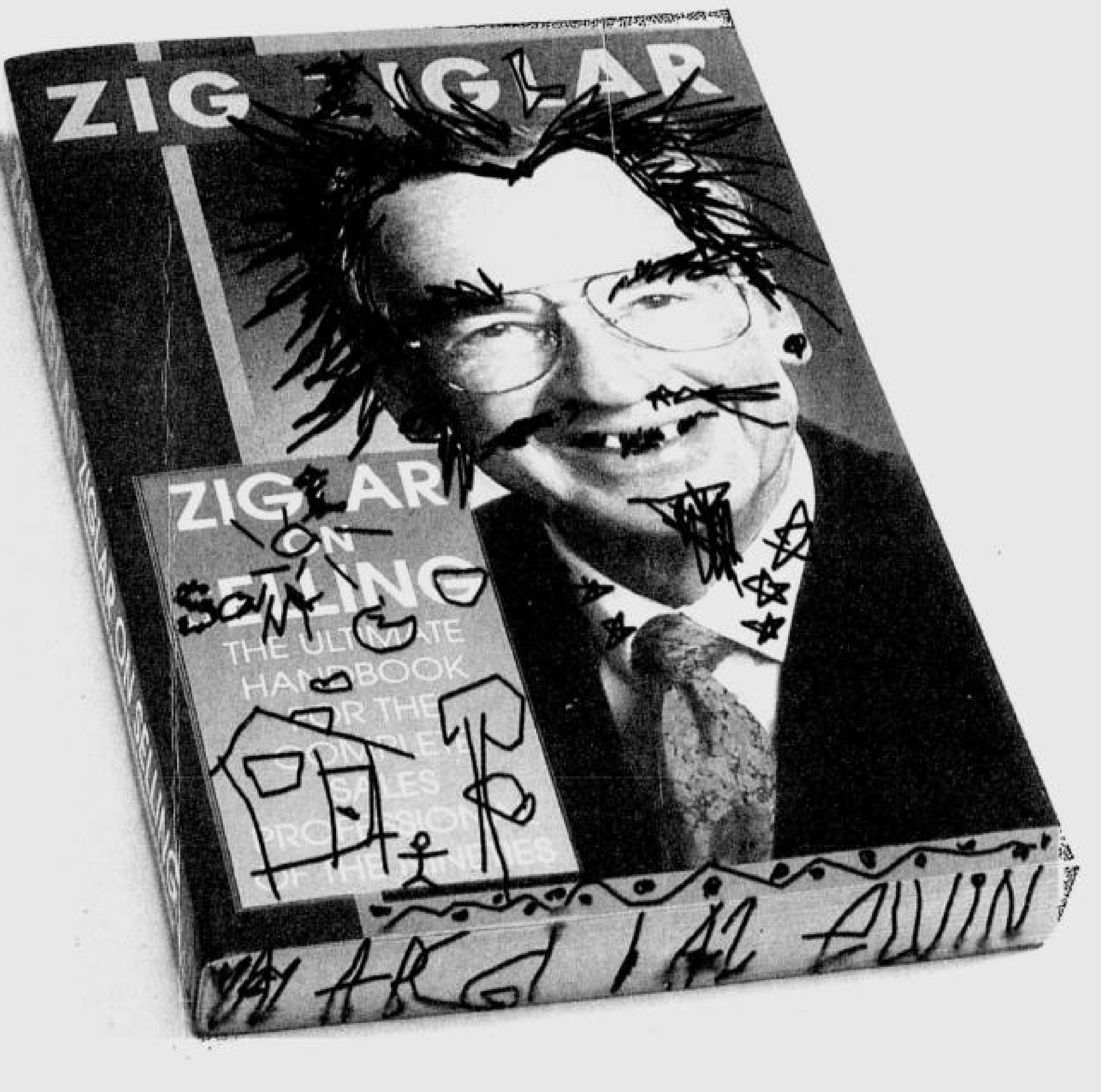
Sports awards night

"The 2001 Laureus World Sports Awards" which celebrates sporting excellence across all continents, will be telecast today at 7 p.m. on Star World.

Supermodel Heidi Klum and actor Gregory Hines host this year's ceremony. The Laureus theme, "Dreaming" for the first time will be performed for the first time with LeAnn Rimes singing.

Robbie Williams in England

Robbie Williams concert at the Manchester Arena in England will be telecast on HBO on Aug. 13 at 10:30 p.m. with replays on Aug. 21 at 2 p.m., Aug 26 at 10:30 a.m. and Aug 29 at 4 p.m. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*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'THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES IN FILIPINO'

Translating and casting one of the year's most highly anticipated plays

By Rito Asilo

IT wasn't easy. "The Vagina Monologues" in Filipino? In light of our desire to bring the play's universal issues closer to local audiences, we at the New Voice Company had planned a Filipino translation of Eve Ensler's Obie-Award winning work. We knew it was not going to be a piece of cake.

Vernacular

We always wondered how Philippine audiences would react to a production of "TVM" in the vernacular. Our commercial and critical successes in Hong Kong and Singapore convinced us all the more to translate it into our language.

Despite Singapore's strict and conservative stance over anything that is regarded as too provocative or overtly liberal, its audiences embraced the show. Davao was an even more incredible story. When NYC's "TVM" flew to Davao for a three-performance tour, the creative team was warmly received but was also forewarned that a group of people had plans to stage an indignation rally over the use of the supposedly inflammatory word Vagina in the title.

We understood the concern. What we didn't understand was the fact that these people attacked the show without having seen it.

Despite the brouhaha, the Davao shows sold out, with over 1,200 audience members each night leaping to their feet and shouting for more. A repeat is already being planned, as well as repeat runs in Singapore and Cebu.

When Monique Wilson (New Voice Company's artistic director) asked me to direct the Filipino version, it took me sometime to realize how big a task it was.

Gender inequality

We wanted to get people who, like us, believed in the material—who not only could write well, but believed in helping empower women and children marginalized by age-old traditions, gender inequality and low self-esteem. So we welcomed with much excitement Monique's announcement that she met Dr. Glecy Atienza, Dr. Joi Barrios and Luna Sicat at an Asian Women's Playwrights Conference in Makiling, and they had expressed their interest to do the Filipino translations of "TVM."

But the road to creating the sound and feel of the Filipino script was a long and tedious one. While we agreed to keep the integrity of the material and to respect the women on whose stories these monologues were based, we were also allowed to do some "cultural" and "social" adaptations in the introductions to make the stories more accessible to Filipinos.

Issues

Doing this allowed us to delve deeper into the meaning of the show's issues by reflecting them jointly in its original universal theme, while putting them in a Philippine context.

NVC wanted to know how the Filipino audience would react to Tagalog translations. Our V-Day celebration last January, which featured the monologues as performed by top film, TV and theater actresses, gave us the chance to experiment. So we wrote a couple of Tagalog translations and mixed them alongside the English monologues and the result was overwhelming!

As the deadline for the translations drew nearer, I started having sleepless nights. I couldn't wait to read the first draft, so when I finally did, I couldn't contain my excitement. I immediately e-mailed them to Monique in London.

Graphic

What the Filipino translation brings to the fore is the beauty of the Filipino language. Yes, it can be graphic but it brings the material closer to home. It makes the emotions raw, more potent. It is also very poetic and moving.

But who would give life to the monologues? The audition process took a long time. There were a number of actresses we considered, but a good combination is essential to the monologues.

Veneer

Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta, who has stacked an impressive and considerable number of theatrical roles at UP and has won acting awards for her film and TV performances, came to read —and blew me away! Inside that calm and collected veneer is a woman of strength and substance. She is as strong an actress as she is a great mother. At all of our rehearsals and pictorials, she always had her children in tow. Sometimes, her husband would patiently wait for her during rehearsals at the NVC Actors Studio.

Then Arlene Borja came on board. I have worked with her in most of the plays that I did, as an actor. She moved us when she read the Bosnia piece and made us cry. An actress who can be as good in drama as she is in comedy is hard to come by.

Which brings us to our third actress. Pinky Marquez drove all of us crazy with laughter as well as moving us immensely with her interpretation of the monologues. If you need personality and talent you can't go any further than Pinky.

Pinky, who is a member of Ang4 and has done high-profile musicals, is also no stranger to me because I have worked with her in a number of musicals in the past, including "Bakhita, "Magnificat" and "Alikabok," my very first play.

Womanhood

On Aug. 31, these women—from playwright Eve Ensler, artistic director Monique Wilson, executive producers Rossana Abueva and Terry Wilson, translators Glecy Atienza, Joi Barrios and Luna Sicat, and actresses Pinky Marquez, Arlene Borja and Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta—will celebrate the joy, pain, mystery and power of womanhood when "The Vagina Monologues in Filipino" premieres at the Music Museum. And we will be there to proudly welcome you when the lights go up.

(Rito Asilo is co-associate artistic director of the New Voice Company. "The Vagina Monologues in Filipino" opens at the Music Museum on Aug. 31. For tickets and sponsorships, call the NVC office at 896-5497, 896-6695 and 899-0630 (telefax). For those interested to join the V-Day worldwide events as well as the Regional/College Youth Initiative Campaigns, there will be a V-Day meeting at the NVC Actors Studio on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2001 at 3 p.m. Those interested can phone NVC and sign up with Brando Ortega, or e-mail at nvcpost@hotmail.com or newvoicecompany@aol.com. For information on "TVM" national tours, international productions, NVC workshop classes and Season 2002 shows, call or e-mail the NVC Actors Studio. Visit the V-Day website at www.vday.org)

MARQUEZ. Her interpretation of the monologues is both funny and moving.

Why noontime variety shows turn some televiewers off

By Noelani Torre

NOONTIME variety shows. At these words, certain images spring to mind—we see 20 people on a glittering stage gyrating to the tune of the latest hit dance single; a "celebrity" belting out the latest hit single (it doesn't matter whether he or she can really sing, *basta* star!); girls in skimpy clothing that reveal more than they conceal; a steady stream of "common *tao*" looking for a quick buck; and a gross of yelling celebrities with toothpaste-ad smiles and bodies clad in the latest fashions.

Innovations

That's the way it is now and that's the way it was years ago when the noontime variety show was still in its infancy. It is said that change comes slowly to us Filipinos, but this is already reaching new heights of absurdity. Sure, there have been innovations, if you can call them that, *but*—!

That game with a million pesos as the cash prize is relatively new. Or is it? Its structure may be new but it's still selling the same old thing—this is the way to get rich quick, *kaya sali na*! And truth to tell, people are getting tired of that same old thing.

More and more viewers have been grumbling lately, sending letters to the editor or letters to the TV stations themselves, speaking out amongst friends and in school debates, and simply just switching to cable channels when 12 noon swings along. It seems they object to what they see on local networks at this time of the day.

We asked several people what they don't like seeing on our noontime variety shows—and what they would like to see. Now, this was one subject where we didn't have much of a problem squeezing answers out of people.

Bad for the digestion

Wholesome is the operative word here. Viewers just want good, clean fun and entertainment while they're having lunch. They don't want to get annoyed while they're eating. Who does? It's bad for the digestion!

Moreover, they say, kids are definitely still awake at this time of the day. Why give them indecency and green humor? So here's what they think:

"I'd like funnier jokes and *hirits* from the hosts of the shows, but it should be wholesome, and the hosts who are so corny and 'trying hard' should be replaced. I don't like seeing and hearing 'singers' who don't know how to sing, nor dancers in their underwear! Please, these are noontime shows. I'd like to see more variety in their song and dance numbers with good singers, dancers, and bands.

"I also think there should be juicy show biz buzz *para* interesting for the *tsismosa* audience, especially the *nakakakilig* tidbits. And one more thing, get Carlos Agassi out of there! He tries so hard to do rap but he fails and it's just too annoying."—***Tanya Posadas, Palawan***

Game shows

"*Huwag nang pakantahin sina* Richard Gomez, Diether Ocampo, *at* Piolo Pascual. *Hindi sila marunong kumanta at inaaksaya lang nila ang oras. Sa mga* game shows *naman, dapat mas magalang ang mga* hosts *sa mga* contestant. *Huwag naman nilang bastusin at ipahiya sa harap ng maraming tao.*

"*Tanggalin din ang mga malalaswang* dancers *na iyan. Ang mga bata kumakain ng pananghalian ng gano'ng oras, ano? Uuwi sila tapos gano'n ang makikita nila sa* TV, *mga malalaswa? Hindi maganda. Iyon ang unang makikita nila, iyang mga* Calendar Girl *at* TV Babe *na iyan. Medyo bastos pa ang mga* hosts. *Nakaka*-offend.

"*Dapat sa gabi na lang iyang mga* variety shows *na iyan, para tulog na ang mga bata. Wala nang problema."—**Alexis Madrid, Cabanatuan City. (To be concluded)***

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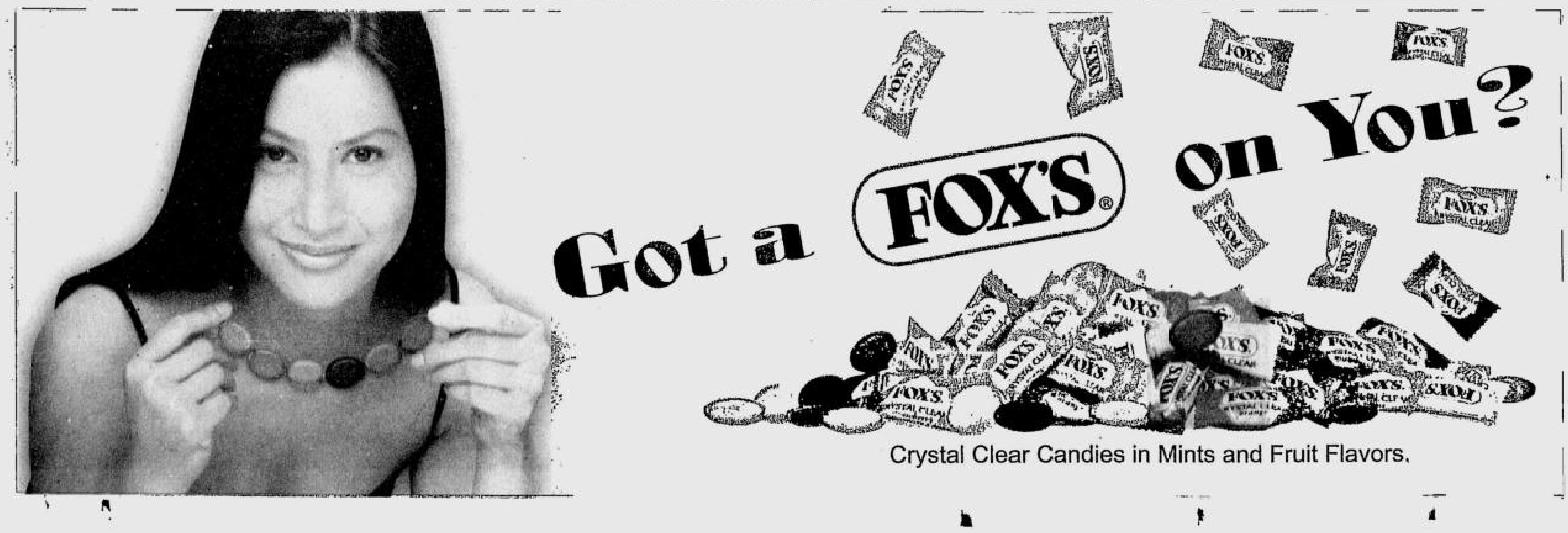

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New French directors come to the fore

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR local-film buffs whose knowledge about French filmmakers has calcified around the legendary likes of Chabrol, Resnais, Rohmer and Lelouch, Label France magazine introduces some relatively new directing talents who have been making the outstanding movies that have enabled French cinema to make a strong comeback in the past few years:

ASSAYAS, left, directing Emmanuelle Beart in "Les Destinees."

Malaise

Olivier Assayas dramatizes the malaise of his generation with films like "Desodre" (1986) and "L'Eau froide" (1994). In 1996, "Irma Vep," with Hong Kong actress Maggie Cheung, was Assayas' tribute to cinema. "Fin août début septembre" (1998) is set in the world of intellectuals, while "Les destinees sentimentales" (2000) is about a parish priest and his second wife.

XavierBeauvois began his directorial career in 1992 with a "shocking" film, "Nord," about his oppressive childhood. His fascination with brutal realism continued with N'oublie pas que tu vas mourir" (1995), on AIDS, war and love. His latest film, "Selon Matthieu" (2001) is a family chronicle set against the background of the class struggle.

Desplechin Arnaud's first film, "La Vie de morts" (1990) focused on a family the day after a suicide. "La Sentinelle" (1992) questioned France's identity within Europe."Comment je me suis disputé" (1996) dissected his own life. And "Esther Kahn" (2000) is about a young Jewish girl who discovers life through the theater.

Social comedy

Cedric Klapisch delights in social comedy. His first film, "Riens du tout" (1992) ridiculed the attitudes and behavior of the staff of a department store. In 1995, "Le Peril Jeune" looks into the lives of students in the 1970s. And "Peut-Etre" (1999) is a science-fiction production.

The first two films of Cedric Kahn were youth-oriented. "Le Bar des rails" (1991) was about adolescents, while "Trop de bonheur" (1994) limned a searing portrait of young people in the '90s. On the other hand, his focus has shifted in his two most recent films, to obsession ("L'Ennui," 1998) and the criminal mind ("Roberto Succo," 2001).

Dominik Moll has made only two movies: "Intimite" (1993) was on women's views on sex, while "Harry" (2000) was a psychological drama masquerading as a detective film.

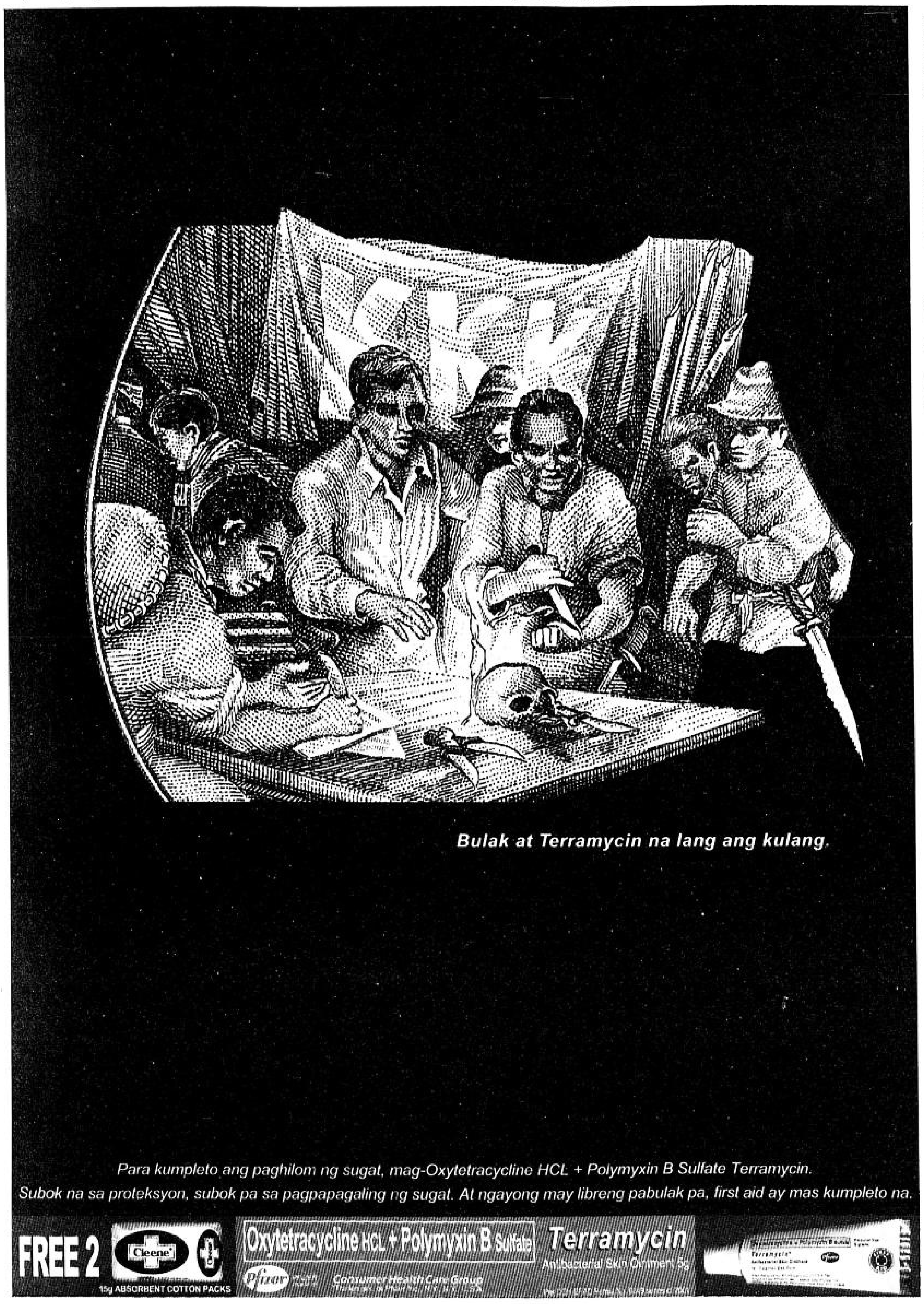
Manuel Poirier makes films about "ordinary" people, but from an extraordinary perspective. In 1997, his "Western" romped off with the judges' nod at the Cannes filmfest. And his new film, "Te quiero," follows a French couple on the run in Peru.

Rebel

Matthieu Kassovitz has gained a reputation for being a rebel by way of his early films like "Métisse" (1993) and "La Haine" (1995). His 1997 film, "Assassin," excoriated violence on television. Kassovitz has also been involved in filmmaking in the United States, and his latest film, "Les Rivieres pourpres" is described as an American-style thriller.

The youngest director is Fracois Ozon, who started his career as a maker of short films. His first film, "Sitcom" 91997), was about an incestuous family. In "Les Amants criminels" (1998), two young criminals met a perverted ogre. "Gouttes d'eau sur pierres brûlantes (1999) was a film on alienation. And "Sous le sable" (2001) is about a woman (charlotte Rampling) who finds it impossible to mourn for her husband, after he disappears from a beach.

With creative young talents like these, the new French cinema is in good hands, indeed!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Tetsuya Matsui tries his luck in RP movies

By Remy M. Umerez

ADD the name of Japanese action star Tetsuya Matsui to the roster of talents Manny Valera's DMV Entertainment is managing.

Uncle

"An uncle of mine who has been helping me bring entertainers to Japan recommended Tetsuya because he wanted to expand his Asian market. To my surprise, he turned out to be an action star whose other skills included scriptwriting and directing. He has appeared in major roles opposite Hong Kong and Japan's biggest stars. He has done about 20 movies in a span of 10 years," Manny disclosed.

It was in 1986 when Matsui signed a contract with Golden Harvest Films to work with Samo Hang King Poh under Bono Productions. A movie titled "Choy Kai Fok Shin" (retitled in Japan as "Ten Lucky Stars") marked his debut as an action star.

In 1987 he was paired with Michelle Yeoh in "Chong Fa Ching Si (Chinese Warriors)". When the movie was shown in Japan, Hollywood moguls took interest in Michele and cast her in the James Bond movie, "Tomorrow Never Dies."

Upon the request of Toei Films, Tetsuya returned to Japan to make a movie titled "Shinjuku Love Story," with lead star Toru Nakamura. After a special participation in Bee Bo High School, he produced, starred and directed "Blood Two Eagle" followed by "Juvenile" and "Otoko Tachi No Yuugi."

Interpreter

Has Tetsui seen much of our country? Has he watched any of our local movies?

With the aid of a female interpreter he revealed:

He is a frequent visitor to the country and among the places he has enjoyed going to are Matabungkay, Tagaytay and Bacolod City.

His father is already deceased and his mom works in an office. He has a brother and a sister.

He observes that Filipino women give importance to their husbands.

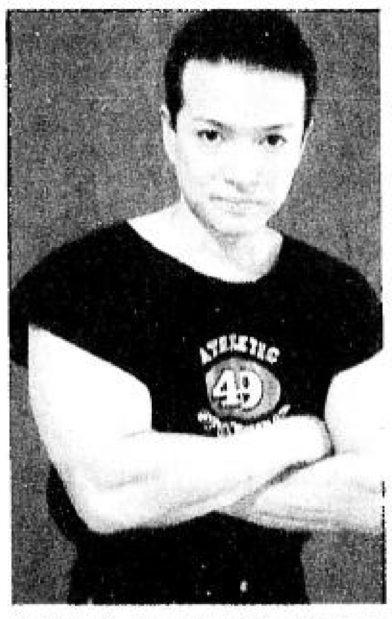
His visits to the country as well as his decision to penetrate local movies is partly inspired by the success of Cynthia Luster who is a personal friend.

The only Tagalog movie he saw was one which starred Bong Revilla and he was impressed with the gun battles. He informs us that real guns are not allowed in Japan movies. Toy guns are substituted.

In Japan, an actor can only make one movie a year if it is a big production. For small budget films, an actor can finish two.

Tetsuya hopes he can share his talent with the Filipino audience while he maintains his movie career in Japan.

A movie on the treasures of Gen. Yamashita is being planned, to be megged by Chito Roño. According to Manny, Tetsuya is being considered for a major role.



MATSUI. Starred with Michelle Yeoh in 1987.

La Femme Bridget in 'Kiss of the Dragon'

VERSATILE actress Bridget Fonda pairs up with martial arts superstar Jet Li in the upcoming action-thriller "Kiss of the Dragon."

Top-secret mission

In the film, Fonda plays Jessica, an American woman forced into prostitution in Paris. There she meets Li Jiuan (Jet Li), a Chinese government agent sent to France on a top-secret mission. When Liu becomes trapped in a vast and deadly conspiracy, he turns to her for help. As Jessica and Liu go up against a cunning and ruthless adversary (Tchéky Karyo), Liu makes a promise to Jessica that could compromise his career, even his life.

Jet Li came up with the idea for the film. To help bring the story, characters and relationships to life, Li turned to one of the world's most acclaimed and visionary filmmakers, Luc Besson ("The Fifth Element"). Besson, recognizing the potentials of Li's ideas, came aboard as a producer.

For the role of Jessica, he approached Bridget Fonda who, coincidentally, had starred in the American version of Besson's "La Femme Nikita," "Point of No Return."

Fonda jumped at the chance to work with Besson—despite the as-yet-unfinished script and the cloak of secrecy that Besson had enveloped around the project. "I am really a great admirer of Luc's films and especially his female characters," says Fonda. "When I met him, he was very secretive about everything, and gave me only a couple of scripts to read. The next thing I know, he offered the part to me. I took it on faith."

Funny and complex

Fonda says her trust in Besson paid off when she finally did read the script, after arriving in Paris to begin filming. "I thought my character, Jessica, was really interesting—funny, sad and complex at the same time. She's a sweet but misguided person who really doesn't see beyond three feet in front of her at any given moment, and she's pretty much bereft of hope. Her life has turned into a nightmare, and the way she deals with it is to look at things too closely. She has this strange sort of distance."

According to director Chris Nahon, the challenge was making "Kiss of the Dragon" both an action and dramatic piece. "We wanted a real story and relationship between Jet and Bridget's characters.

Jet Li's thespic and martial abilities impressed Bridget Fonda. "Jet Li is poetry in motion," she exclaims. "And this from somebody who grew up on Bruce Lee, so I have an appreciation for kicking butt." Fonda also appreciated Li's many contradictions. "Jet Li's combination of shy and strong, sweet and dangerous, quiet and outspoken."

A self-avowed film fan who loves all movie genres, Fonda has purposely chosen roles in a wide variety of films, ranging from comedy, hard drama and action.

Debut

She made her debut in Franc Roddam's segment of "Aria," a 1988 film composed of short works directed by ten filmmakers. She earned critical acclaim and a Golden Globe nomination as Best Supporting Actress for "Scandal," the story of the Profumo affair which rocked the ruling party of Great Britain in the 1960's.

She was also seen in other films like "Doc Hollywood," "Single White Female," "A Simple Plan," "Point of No return" and "It Could Happen to You."

FONDA. Complete trust in director Besson.

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HEART ATTACK

It's time for Julia Roberts, Billy Crystal, John Cusack and Catherine Zeta-Jones to sit together
to discuss the junket for the movie about a junket

ROBERTS. Her latest starrer depicts entertainment reporters as narcissistic toadies.

'America's Sweethearts' stars talk about 'unholy alliance'

By Douglas J. Rowe

NEW YORK—The junket for the movie about a junket is in full swing, and a good dozen staffers for Columbia Pictures' publicity machine are wearing headsets so they can communicate with each other and a central control desk.

Five minutes

Like air traffic controllers, they're making sure none of the 50-plus interviewers from around the country crash into each other and that each gets their five minutes with the four stars of "America's Sweethearts."

And like the nation's busiest airports, they're running behind schedule (more than an hour).

The usual buffet has been laid out, ravaged and replenished a few times. What are journalists to do while in a holding pattern, except eat? (OK, drink. But this is on-duty.)

"America's Sweethearts" depicts entertainment reporters as unctuous, parasitic, narcissistic toadies. The junketeers in the movie make the blubbery, babbling Jiminy Glick look like Peter Jennings. (After the screening, one real-life junketeer, sounding more hurt than angry, wondered aloud to a colleague, "Is that what they think of us?")

Junket

Eventually, it's time for Julia Roberts, Billy Crystal, John Cusack and Catherine Zeta-Jones to sit together and discuss the junket for the movie about a junket—for the better part of an hour.

"Are you serious?" Zeta-Jones wonders.

"It's way too long," Crystal cracks.

Almost all of the interviews on this day have been with broadcast journalists—and barely five minutes long.

"There's a reason for that," Roberts says.

"Volume," Crystal says, referring to the head-spinning shepherding of the TV types in and out of the studios set up in a Manhattan hotel.

"We peak at three (minutes)," Roberts jokes.

"You only have concentration for the first four," Zeta-Jones says.

And by the time the interview gets edited down, Cusack says, "it'll probably be eight seconds of you saying something."

Still, Crystal says: "You do the best you can because this is our chance to help get the word out."

Certainly, interviews with reporters are a key component to any studio's publicity push (particularly now that Sony Pictures, Columbia's parent company, has been busted for making up a critic and casting employees in man-in-the-street testimonial commercials).

And Zeta-Jones points out that famous people can work the press just as the press works them.

"It's an unholy alliance," Cusack says with mock gravity, adding: "The PR budgets for the films are sometimes half of the budget (to make) the film itself."

Shallow

The quartet concedes that the brevity of the TV interviews means they're inevitably shallow. So do they prefer in-depth interviews?

"Depends on the questions," Crystal says.

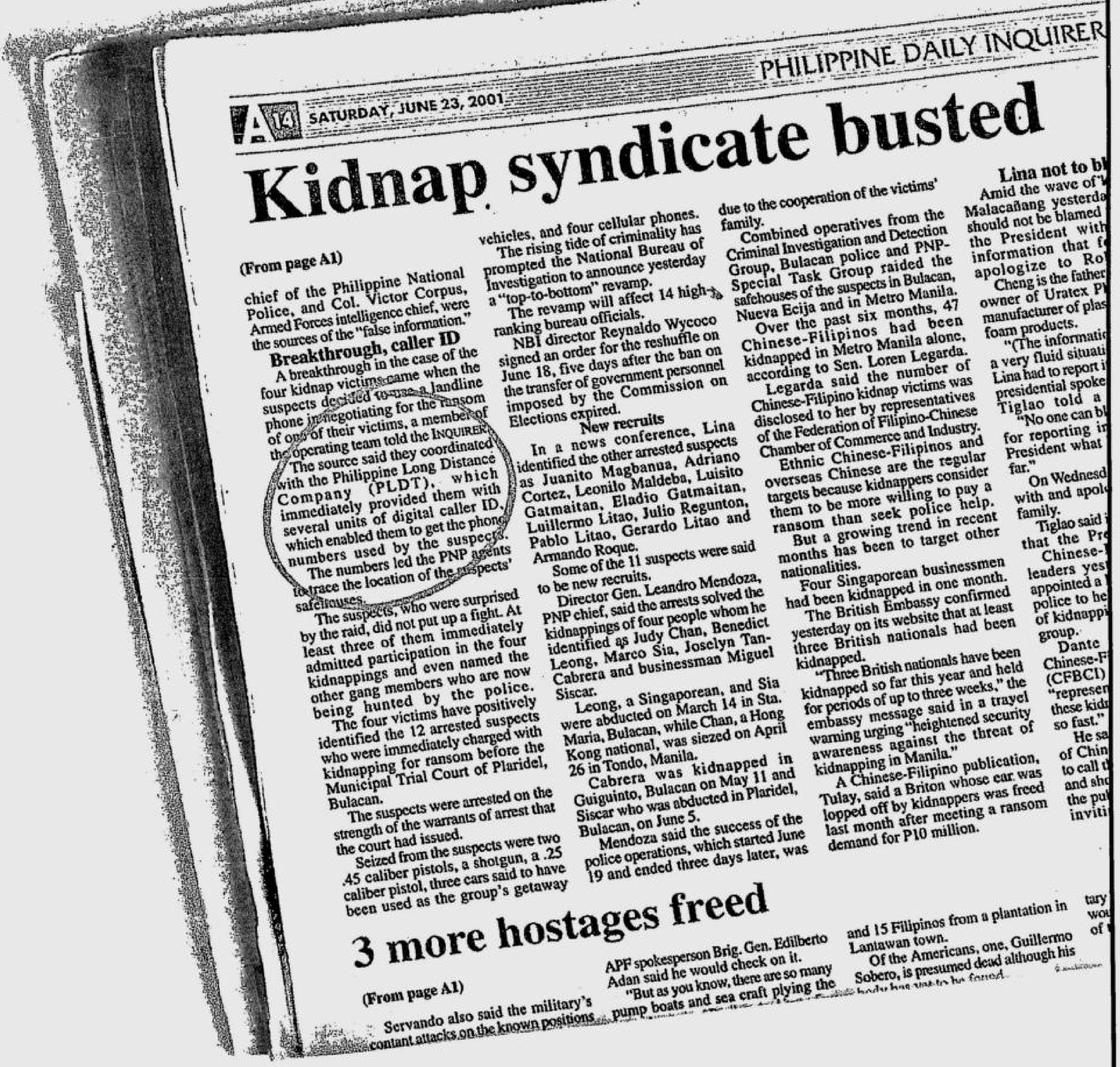
"And on the intention," Zeta-Jones chimes in.

Cusack says his own experience is that writers approach a story with an angle "and all they do is they fish for things" to support it. "So you don't really matter."

"That's what I think. Everybody has their thesis when they walk in," Roberts agrees.

She recalls the one time she let a writer into her home. He saw a carved quotation in the mantle of her New York apartment. Inspired by an uncle, she had found a passage from a poem she liked but "it didn't all fit on my mantle and I was forced to do that which is sacrilegious, which is edit one of my favorite writers." (She wouldn't say who.) ***(To be concluded)***

Dahil bagsak presyo, bagsak sa kulungan.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A14 SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2001

Kidnap syndicate busted

(From page A1)

chief of the Philippine National Police, and Col. Victor Corpus, Armed Forces intelligence chief, were the sources of the "false information."

Breakthrough, caller ID

A breakthrough in the case of the four kidnap victims came when the suspects decided to use a landline phone in negotiating for the ransom of one of their victims, a member of the operating team told the INQUIRER.

The source said they coordinated with the Philippine Long Distance Company (PLDT), which immediately provided them with several units of digital caller ID, which enabled them to get the phone numbers used by the suspects.

The numbers led the PNP agents to trace the location of the suspects' safehouses.

The suspects, who were surprised by the raid, did not put up a fight. At least three of them immediately admitted participation in the four kidnappings and even named the other gang members who are now being hunted by the police.

The four victims have positively identified the 12 arrested suspects who were immediately charged with kidnapping for ransom before the Municipal Trial Court of Plaridel, Bulacan.

The suspects were arrested on the strength of the warrants of arrest that the court had issued.

Seized from the suspects were two .45 caliber pistols, a shotgun, a .25 caliber pistol, three cars said to have been used as the group's getaway vehicles, and four cellular phones.

The rising tide of criminality has prompted the National Bureau of Investigation to announce yesterday a "top-to-bottom" revamp.

The revamp will affect 14 high-ranking bureau officials.

NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco signed an order for the reshuffle on June 18, five days after the ban on the transfer of government personnel imposed by the Commission on Elections expired.

New recruits

In a news conference, Lina identified the other arrested suspects as Juanito Magbanua, Adriano Cortez, Leonilo Maldeba, Luisito Gatmaitan, Eladio Gatmaitan, Luillermo Litao, Julio Reguntion, Pablo Litao, Gerardo Litao and Armando Roque.

Some of the 11 suspects were said to be new recruits.

Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, said the arrests solved the kidnappings of four people whom he identified as Judy Chan, Benedict Leong, Marco Sia, Joselyn Tan-Cabrera and businessman Miguel Siscar.

Leong, a Singaporean, and Sia were abducted on March 14 in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, while Chan, a Hong Kong national, was siezed on April 26 in Tondo, Manila.

Cabrera was kidnapped in Guiguinto, Bulacan on May 11 and Siscar who was abducted in Plaridel, Bulacan, on June 5.

Mendoza said the success of the police operations, which started June 19 and ended three days later, was due to the cooperation of the victims' family.

Combined operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Bulacan police and PNP-Special Task Group raided the safehouses of the suspects in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and in Metro Manila.

Over the past six months, 47 Chinese-Filipinos had been kidnapped in Metro Manila alone, according to Sen. Loren Legarda.

Legarda said the number of Chinese-Filipino kidnap victims was disclosed to her by representatives of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ethnic Chinese-Filipinos and overseas Chinese are the regular targets because kidnappers consider them to be more willing to pay a ransom than seek police help.

But a growing trend in recent months has been to target other nationalities.

Four Singaporean businessmen had been kidnapped in one month.

The British Embassy confirmed yesterday on its website that at least three British nationals had been kidnapped.

"Three British nationals have been kidnapped so far this year and held for periods of up to three weeks," the embassy message said in a travel warning urging "heightened security awareness against the threat of kidnapping in Manila."

A Chinese-Filipino publication, Tulay, said a Briton whose ear was lopped off by kidnappers was freed last month after meeting a ransom demand for P10 million.

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3 more hostages freed

(From page A1)

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APF spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said he would check on it.

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and 15 Filipinos from a plantation in Lantawan town.

Of the Americans, one, Guillermo Sobero, is presumed dead although his

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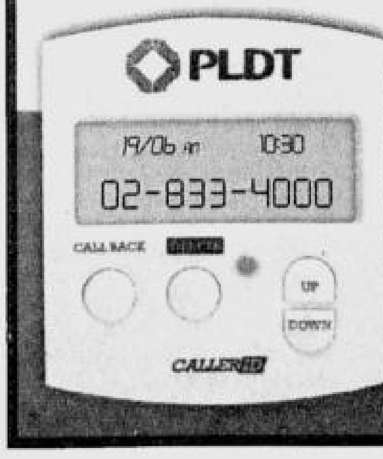

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Social responsibility and the stars

FORD. Ready to stake his personal safety in helping others.

By Nestor U. Torre

MOVIE stars are generally perceived to be necessarily egotistical people who use their ego and temperament to generate excitement and charisma in the roles they play. Stars *have* to think primarily of themselves, to believe in the dynamism of their appeal, otherwise their movies won't scintillate.

Lionized

Well, that's true—but only up to a point. We all know stars who have engaged in "self-love" so completely that they've become "monsters," shunned by their co-workers even as they continue to be lionized by their fans, who don't know any better.

On the other hand, there are some stars who don't stop at believing in and projecting their best assets, and have gone on to using their celebrity to inspire other people, and to help make the world a better place to live in. Some recent examples:

Sharon Stone is "famous" for her "legs-uncrossing" shot in "Basic Instinct," but she is definitely not the sleazy screen tart that some people painted her to be after that "revealing" act. In fact, she spends much of her time using her celebrity to raise awareness and funds for environmental protection, for a host of organizations involved in that all-important campaign to save the wonders of the world for future generations to enjoy and savor.

Characteristic frankness

At a recent fundraising ball, Stone declared with her characteristic frankness, "When I uncrossed my legs onscreen, I got your attention. Now, I want you to turn that attention to the much more meaningful task of saving our environment. That's a much more important issue than whether or not I have my knickers on, don't you think?"

It goes without saying that her listeners responded by giving her a resounding ovation—and hefty donations to the kitty for protecting the environment.

Some stars have used their celebrity to inspire other people and help make the world a better place to live in

Chinese martial-arts star Jet Li is another luminary who is dynamically aware of his social responsibility: his new starrer, "Kiss of the Dragon," is quite violent, so he has mounted a personal campaign to urge parents to keep their younger and more impressionable children from being exposed to its scenes of carnage.

Not that Jet Li isn't proud of his new starrer—he just wants it to be viewed only by adults, who can "take" its violent scenes. Very few stars will responsibly act to limit access to their movies, as Li has done so he gets two thumbs up for his wise and generous move.

Helicopter

Finally, screen hero Harrison Ford recently became a lifesaver in real life when he responded to a call for help from the family of a young boy lost in a forest. Ford flew his own helicopter low enough to catch sight of the boy and rescued him before the harsh elements could do him greater harm.

Ford's courageous act proves that heroism isn't just a game of pretend with him, and that he's ready to stake his personal safety in helping others.

He could easily have hired a pilot and a rescue team to do the work for him, but Ford wanted to show that it was *he* who cared, not his ample financial resources.

You can bet that, when Ford's next heroic starrer is shown, more film fans will patronize it, as their simple way of saying thanks to a star who's proven that his heroism is not just for the silver screen, but also for the more dangerous and "no-take-two" arena of real life.

Characteristically, right after he effected the boy's heroic rescue, Ford steered clear of the press and refused to comment on what had just transpired. He was right to do so, of course. After all, in dangerous situations like that, actions speak much more eloquently than words!

20 years of 'serious' comedy with Tessie Tomas

By Mona Gonzalez

IF YOU want a palatable run-down of our current history, look at the many characters Tessie Tomas, host of "Feel at Home" and the irrepressible Sen. Barbara Tengco of "Eto Na Ang Susunod na Kabanata" has played for the past 20 years.

Bold star

Amanda Pineda, her first role, was an obvious play on Amado Pineda, a popular weatherman at the time. Then came bold star Bonnie Buendia. "I was following the rise and fall of *bomba* (bold) stars. I think this was one of the best scripts I ever wrote. It was so real and painful that the audience was forced to think hard, even while they laughed," Tessie says.

Other roles: Loida Dimagiba, a squatter. "At the time there was a fierce demolition of squatters' homes, so this character would walk around the shanty and not sleep because anytime, she could be demolished. She was so angry."

The character became such a hit that it evolved into a play in the '80s and again, made the audience laugh—and think. "They got the message," Tessie recalls.

Carmeling Lawiswis was the ever-pregnant wife of a construction worker. And Doña Pepay was the 80-year-old mother of former President Marcos. But the role that brought her the most fame was Meldita.

"We started the script showing a young Imelda from Tacloban, then did her shoes, travelling and the like. It was so funny. Then we ended it with an airplane monologue, when Imelda is brought to Hawaii by force."

Bone of contention

Tessie recalls that the ending became a bone of contention between herself and the director. "He felt the ending was too strong, and could arouse sympathy for Imelda. The lines were painful—you laugh, but you cry, too. I insisted on the ending that I wrote."

In this scene, Meldita wore an aluminum-foil gown resembling a cross between Ibong Adarna and a Sagala. All the while she delivered her monologue, Marcos sat beside her, sleeping.

Lino Brocka, who was still alive then, told her, "You kept me laughing, then you made me cry." "They were uneasy," Tessie recalls of the audience. "The [illegible] clear their throats, feel uncomfortable. She kept it short but intense, and ended the program with a "happy" reprise.

Looking back, Tessie says, "I always wondered when Imelda would watch my show. Others whom I'd spoofed watched and were flattered, like Kris Aquino, Loren Legarda and Miriam Defensor Santiago."

Actually, she played Meldita both ways. As a comedienne, and in a serious role in the telemovie, "A Dangerous Life" which starred Gary Busey. "It's harder to do drama," she says. "Actually, I was appreciated more in that role by non-Pinoys, who didn't know I was a comedian. Here, they couldn't take me seriously."

Spoof

These days, it's *Senadora* Barbara Tengco in her current show, "Kabanata." Tengco, she says is a spoof of the political career of Sen. Loi Estrada. "We brainstormed before we arrived at the role," she says. "Then we followed Loi's career path. The audience said they liked my hair and clothes," she adds, laughing.

And after 20 years in the business, how has Filipino comedy evolved? "I like to think my brand of comedy gave Pinoys more choices, more than slapstick. It makes them think," Tessie observes.

Tessie's first show was "Champoy" directed by Peque Gallaga. "The show revolutionized comedy," she says. "We were up against 'Todas' which always beat us in the ratings, but we had our own, hard-core audience."

At the time she struggled against the existing stereotype—"that a comedienne should *be pilay, bungi, pangit, mataba.* I knew I was funny, but I packaged myself as a glamorous comedian. I chose my clothes carefully, and put some substance in my humor."

When "Champoy" went off the air, Tessie turned down TV offers for many years, limiting herself to stand-up comedy. "I didn't like slapstick, I'd compare other sitcoms to 'Champoy.' It was only when 'Abangan...' came up that I decided to go back to television comedy."

There had been forays into other things. She hosted a legal show for a while, and did some work in theater. She gained a *masa* cro[illegible] with her TV show, "Teysi ng Tahanan

Elitist

"Even now, when the *masa* [illegible], they remember me as Teysi. Before, my shows were mainly viewed by Makati executives and students. I was an 'elitist' comedienne."

With her current show, "Kabanata" Tessie was surprised when the surveys showed the *masa* didn't like Erap jokes. "That was an eye-opener," Tessie says. "It showed Erap still had sympathizers, so we veered to other things like the senate and now, political parties."

And what can she say about Filipino humor? "We laugh at our foibles, at our misfortunes. But you also need to empower yourself, to say, 'I know I can do something to improve myself. Not to just laugh, but also be accountable.' That's why I put an urgent message in my comedy. If I went dramatic it would be corny, too heavy. This way, you are made to think."

In the future, she says she'd like to do male characters, without changing into male costumes. She's thinking of doing Erap and Alfredo Lim, among others. At home, she sometimes mimics her husband, marine biologist and consultant Roger Pullin, who on the side, sings at Hobbit House.

Flops

Looking back, Tessie says she has had her share of flops. "I've had my Bette Midler experiences. I performed in a bath house—without knowing it. I've also played in raunchy theaters with drunken men toying with my props, and hecklers. I've been to cheapos where the crowd was not listening, and really slugged it out. I don't know how I survived, but I guess you just have to know how to handle all sorts of people," she say

La[illegible]d, she says she really feels for [illegible] comedians, because there is a ser[illegible]le to the business. "By and large, [illegible] comedians like Woody Allen and [illegible]phy are dead serious offstage. But there's an upside, too. What I like best about this job is making people laugh—and getting paid for it!"

TOMAS. Struggling against stereotypes.

Rustom Padilla bounces back

By Edmund L. Sicam

RUSTOM Padilla, who's been having all kinds of personal problems including a marital break-up and financial headaches (at one point, he was on the brink of losing his house), is bouncing back. Yesterday, he flew to Singapore to complete work on a weekly evening show, "Paradise," that started airing four weeks ago.

Drama series

The drama series is part of his two-year contract (starting May 2001) with Singapore Press Holdings' Media Works, which is one of two TV networks in that island-state. The company also owns The Singapore Straits Times, the leading paper in the country. Another Filipino actor has also been signed to a two-year contract – Romnick Sarmenta. The two play major roles in "Paradise," a "Baywatch" type of action-drama show which stars Singaporeans Nadja Hutagalong, a former videojock of MTV, and Michelle and Lum May Yee, both models.

RUSTOM with "Paradise" co-star Lum May Yee.

The first eight episodes were shot at a beach resort in Calatagan, Batangas. The first few were directed by a Filipino, Raul Ona after which Jeffrey Jeturian took over. Jeturian is also flying to Singapore to direct most of the remaining episodes in the 13-week season.

Rustom was impressed at the amount of time the TV producers gave to the filming of the show. Each episode, containing 45 sequences, took a week to complete and was shot with 16 mm cameras. This was probably refreshingly new to Jeturian who could have shot almost an entire movie with the time he devoted to each episode.

Local projects

Since he signed up for two years, does this mean he's going to drop local projects completely? Not necessarily, Rustom says. His producers have allowed him to shuttle back and forth in case there are projects in Manila. However, he will initially only be able to guest in TV shows since long-running projects will conflict with his Singapore job.

Initially, he was being offered a flat to stay in but his manager Nestor Cuartero told him he would still have to pay for his daily needs like light, water, food, etc. He advised him to stay in a hotel instead, where his expenses were covered.

"Paradise" will be in English although Romnick will have snatches of Tagalog dialogue since he and Rustom are playing Filipinos in the series. Romnick is the good guy and though Rustom is not necessarily the villain in the show, he plays a shady character.

The show is precedent-setting in that it is the first home-grown drama show that will air in Singapore. Until recently, stations would import their shows from the US and other foreign countries. Rustom told us that the government is encouraging citizens to learn to speak English and producing English shows is one way to do it.

Rustom believes that his getting into the show was an act of God. He attended a wedding in Davao several months ago where the only people he knew were the bride and groom. During his stay in Davao, he got to know many of the couple's friends. One of them, Bong Agustin, turned out to be a local representative of the Singapore TV network.

Agustin informed him that there was a show in the works and asked Rustom if he was interested. This led several months later to an audition, which impressed the Singapore producers. So impressed were they that they signed Rustom to a two-year contract, a rare development since most talents in Singapore are usually given short-term deals.

Billboard ad

Aside from "Paradise," there's also talk about Rustom coming out in a billboard ad for a mall, and doing modeling jobs.

When he spoke to several entertainment writers a few days ago, Rustom looked really good and was all smiles. He looked like he didn't have a care in the world.

Things were different several years ago. Rustom suffered one setback after another. He split up with Carmina Villarroel and their break-up dominated many tabloids. According to him, the two had agreed to split the monthly amortization on their house. What happened was that in the division of property, Rustom got the house, which meant he had to pay the balance of the loan all by himself.

There wasn't enough money coming in. He was struggling and didn't have the energy to overcome his insecurities. He was in denial about the split-up and what was worse, he saw no light at the end of the tunnel.

At one point, the bank sent word that it would foreclose on the house since he was way behind in his payments. Just as he was about to give up, his brother Robin came to the rescue.

At a time when the action star had just been released from jail and had his own problems to deal with, he told Rustom that he had just signed up with Star Cinema and was getting a down payment of a million pesos. He lent Rustom P900,000 so he could keep the house.

That act of kindness touched Rustom and convinced him that when all the chips are down, it's still one's family that one can turn to for help.

Last May, Rustom made the final payment on his house. He says he is totally healed and has become closer to God after the ordeal. He has gained back his confidence and is more optimistic about the future. He feels stronger, ready to meet whatever obstacles may come his way again. As far as his love life is concerned, he is seeing a non-show biz personality living in Alabang.. He admits that he's still cautious about relationships so both of them are just enjoying each other's company, with no immediate plans of settling down.

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AM/FM

Of phantom stations, Johnny Mathis, male rape and the OCWs

By Rito P. Asilo

YOU lean forward, turn the radio dial counter-clockwise to the far-left end of your FM band, then you search again. Once you get a clear signal, you pray that it stays there. It has been like this for two hours. DWIZ 882 seems to be playing cat-and-mouse with its listeners.

Surprises

On a lazy Saturday morning when the atmosphere wears thin, this phantom station on the extreme left of your radio dial can offer surprises. "Musical Souvenirs" is a litany of songs of yesteryears, ditties you seldom hear on the FM band.

After the station ID, the familiar piano strains of traditional pop-balladeer Johnny Mathis' "Chances Are" permeate the airwaves. Once again, you are transported back to memories of lazy Sunday afternoons, gentle late-summer rains, the swaying of a comfortable rocking chair in the veranda, and the old turntable spinning your grandfather's vinyl. In fact, this is how Mathis would like his songs remembered.

Johnny Mathis is one of the last and most popular in a long line of traditional male vocalists who emerged before the rock-dominated 1960s. Unsurprisingly, given his emphasis on sustained notes and heavy vibrato, Mathis studied with an opera coach prior to his teenage years and was almost lured into classical performance. In the late '50s, he was Frank Sinatra's main rival as the most popular traditional male vocalist.

Athlete

What is little known about Johnny is that he was an exceptional high school athlete in San Francisco, but was wooed away from a college track scholarship and a potential spot on the Olympic squad by the chance to sing.

While he may have stacked up a series of hits, it's interesting to note that Johnny only has two number one hits. "Chances Are", culled from his 1957 "Wonderful, Wonderful" album, was his first and only solo number one hit. It took 21 years before he found his second—and last—No. 1 single, his duet with Deniece Williams, 1978's "Too Much, Too Little, Too Late."

After two more introspective songs, we were shamelessly interrupted by the station's all-Tagalog "DWIZ Balita". You would think that you had accidentally pushed your AM band button. Then the station ID reminded you that you were still in "Ocho, ocho, dos."

This was a signal to get something to drink, but upon our return, we were left with a fair amount of static and garbled interference from some galaxies. And we were back wrestling with our dial.

Signal problems

DWIZ has some signal problems. Catching it poses a problem, especially when all you want to do is listen to some good radio. But then again, we can always switch to AM.

We were pleasantly surprised by 558 RMN, also on the extreme left of the dial, but this time on the AM band. A friend once suggested that a number of AM station programmers deserve to be soaked in a "vat of brine" to squeeze "flavor" from them. "Pinoy Online : Bantay OCW" (weekdays, 12 noon-2 p.m.; Saturdays, 7-10 p.m.) is an exception.

Anchored by Susan K and Cesar Padilla, this public service program offers a lot of insights into the plight of our Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) and the travails of being a third-rate citizen in some harsh foreign land. This episode is particularly interesting. Susan K describes Pinoys as "objects of desire" in foreign lands because they have "fair, smooth skin; lean build; subservient nature, and no chest hairs!" Say that again? "Yes," she enthuses, "no chest hairs." She is talking about our male species! At least we can still be depended on to inject some sense of humor into otherwise tragic circumstances!

Apparently, there has been an alarming upsurge of male rape cases abroad. Consider the following on-going cases: a Nepalese had his way with a Pangasinense, who allegedly owed him money. Since the Pinoy couldn't pay him in cash, the Nepalese national opted to get paid back in kind, resulting to his getting stabbed after "raping" the Pinoy, who now needs "blood money" for his release. MMDA chairman Ben Abalos jumpstarted the fundraising drive by donating P50,000.

Another case was that of a Pinoy construction worker raped by his Egyptian employer. The former is now in prison for killing his "rapist". Also mentioned were actual cases of male nurses in Saudi Arabia who dabble in the flesh trade on the side, and of male engineers posing as "willing victims" for their Arab employers in exchange for security of tenure and, sometimes, easy cash.

Employer

Then there was the case of Mary Jane Ramos, who killed her employer, when the latter forced himself on her. Though his relatives had given their "forgiveness", Ramos has yet to pay them their "blood money" worth P2.1 million for her release. Where would a housekeeper get this sum of money?

The incidence of abuse among Asians has been escalating, and our embassies are helpless in controlling these cases. In fact, the Indonesian government has stopped deploying their people in Saudi Arabia. There are about 370,000 Indonesians in the gulf state, as compared to more than 600,000 Filipinos.

The lure of the greenback has been unrelenting, and everyone seems to be jumping ship. With the present state of the economy, can we blame them?

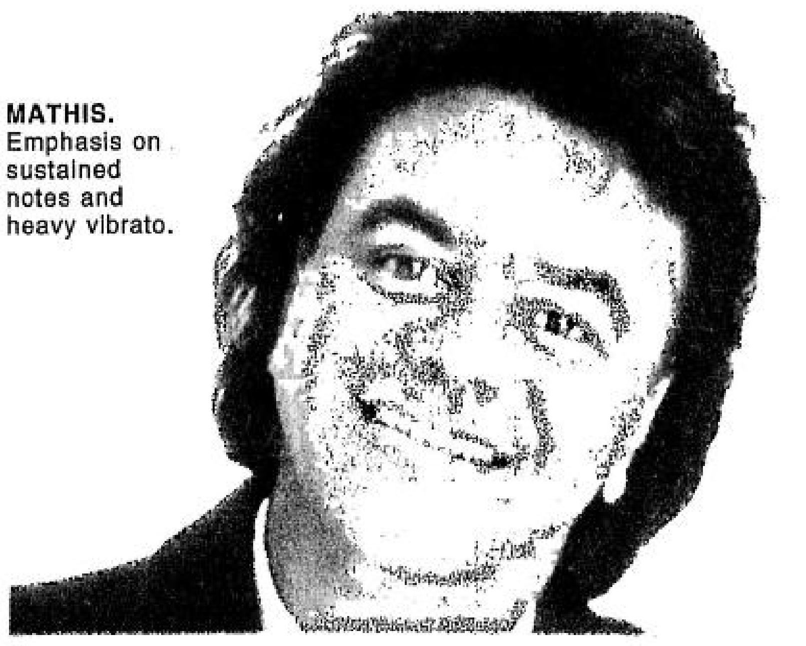
The program also offers a free-call service called "Ugnayang Pandaigdig," where people can engage in call conferencing, and on-air "*kumustahan,*" or air their pleas for help.

Market vendor

Consider these: a market vendor calling on behalf of a sister in Dhaman who is suffering from breast cancer (the sister desperately wants to go home, but doesn't have money for the plane fare); a physical therapist and a masseur inquiring about job openings abroad (allegedly, Norway, Ireland and the UK have just announced openings in both fields); a limousine driver of six years in Saudi Arabia also expressed his wish, through his wife, to go home, but is heavily in debt. (He earns solely by percentage per limo rental, and thus, has not been paid for months. In a place where there are 50,000 taxis, who would hire a limo? His dilemma was, his contract had already expired, making his stay illegal, but his employer, to whom he owed money, would not release him.)

"Bantay OCW" turns out to be a study of contrasts. Filipinos seeking greener pastures deluge the program, dreaming of bigger paychecks and better lives. But the program is, at the same time, flooded with cries for help. In fact, 70 percent of calls cater to OCWs who desperately want a free ride home.

It's bizarre to listen to cries of desperation, with Gary Valenciano's "Babalik Ka Rin" humming at the back of your mind, like a musical background from a bleak Brothers Grimm fairytale. The DFA and OWWA should make this program required listening for aspiring OCWs.



MATHIS. Emphasis on sustained notes and heavy vibrato.

Noel Cabangon's musical journeys

HE is a wayfarer, treading the dusty roads of our lives, singing the songs of our roads.

Noel Cabangon's journey began in a high school church choir, where he discovered his penchant for music. In his college days, he would hone that talent further as a folk singer, making the rounds of the different folk houses in the city. With Rom Dongeto, he formed the seminal group Buklod, which produced songs that are legendary to this day.

Quiet triumphs

Noel's songs are the songs of his journeys, and ours, as well. He sings of the roads of our everyday, filled with the noise of work and suffering, and the quiet triumphs of friendship and hope. He sings songs for every stage of the journey, songs that speak to audiences of book launchings and political discussions, to crowds of weddings and baptisms, to the people of the street.

The songs of his journeys are now collected in an album produced by the Jesuit Music Ministry, entitled "Pasakalye." The word refers to the introduction of a song, but it also connotes a direction, a going-to-the-road, a beginning of a journey, the journey that Noel has been making all his life.

Tribute

Most recently, his journey has taken him to the august halls of the University of the Philippines Theater, when he joined "Pananagutan: A Lifetime of Music and Love," a tribute to the Jesuit composer Fr. Eddie Hontiveros. With the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, Gerard Salonga, Carol Banawa and a hundred-voice choir, Noel brought the audience to its feet in praise and gratitude.

Noel now takes his journey further—to the mountaintops and through the airwaves—with his latest endeavor: a music video of the song "Let Your Spirit," from the album "Something More: Songs for Skeptics." The song, with lyrics by Fr. Johnny Go, SJ and music by Bro. Eddie Dass, SJ, brings Noel to Sagada as he searches for that which we truly seek. Directed by Lawrence Cordero and produced by Jesuit Communications, "Let Your Spirit" was launched at Bistro 70 on July 25, 2001.

Free admission

Noel also journeys to bring his songs to more and more people. Noel's road takes him to SM Sucat on July 28, SM Manila on July 29 and SM Fairview on Aug. 3. People can hear Noel sing the songs of our roads beginning 4 p.m., free admission.

With all these landmark achievements on his journey, what is left for Noel? He journeys on, singing the songs of the everyday, the songs of the journeys of our lives.

"Pasakalye" features all-original music by Noel Cabangon. "Let Your Spirit" is part of the album "Something More: Songs for Skeptics," which features Cabangon, Ariel Rivera, Jose Mari Chan and Lea Salonga. "Pasakalye" and "Something More" are both produced by the Jesuit Music Ministry and the Jesuit Communications Foundation and are distributed nationwide by BMG Records Pilipinas.

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Ariel, in cooperation with Luntiang Pilipinas and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, invites you to a special Tree Planting Ceremony in Silangan, Calamba on July 31, 2001. Join us as we pay tribute to the women who inspired others to dedicate these trees in their names. Just another way Ariel brings you a step closer to greener pastures.

‘Jurassic Park III’ begins post-Spielberg age of dinosaurs

By David Germain

UNIVERSAL CITY, California—From a Hollywood perspective, the footprints Joe Johnston trod in were somewhat larger than those left by a tyrannosaurus.

Franchise

With "Jurassic Park III," the director had the task of following Steven Spielberg on a franchise whose first two films grossed $1.5 billion worldwide.

Perhaps the only equivalents would be if another filmmaker took over "Star Wars" from George Lucas or stepped in for Spielberg on an "Indiana Jones" flick.

While Spielberg's "Jaws" spawned three sequels from other directors, those came when Spielberg was still establishing himself as blockbuster king and before the prestige of his two best-director Oscars.

Johnston, 51, who worked as visual-effects art director on the first two "Indiana Jones" movies and oversaw the aerial sequences in Spielberg's "Always," was undaunted about traveling in his former boss' wake.

"If I had ever stopped to think about it, I probably would have been," Johnston said in an interview at Universal Studios, which made the "Jurassic Park" movies.

Alternative

"But what was my alternative? The only alternative I had was not to do it. Once Steven said, 'Do you want to?' the idea of not doing it never crossed my mind. Because for one thing, I felt pretty flattered by the offer."

At the premiere of "Jurassic Park" in 1993, Johnston—whose directing credits include "Jumanji," "October Sky" and "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids"—had told Spielberg he'd be interested in directing a sequel.

Spielberg wound up doing the first sequel, "The Lost World: Jurassic Park," which opened over Memorial Day weekend in 1997 with a record $90.2 million debut.

In 1999, Spielberg came calling for Johnston. Between "A.I. Artificial Intelligence" and "Minority Report," due out next year, Spielberg did not have time to direct another "Jurassic Park" film.

"He said, 'I have too many kids now, and I can't do it.' And he told me, 'Besides, those movies are too hard,'" Johnston said. "Of course, he went off and did 'A.I.', which didn't look like a walk in the park, either."

Spielberg was executive producer on "Jurassic Park III," while longtime associate Kathleen Kennedy was a producer.

SPIELBERG already has an idea for a fourth "Jurassic Park."

The movie brings back Sam Neill as paleontologist Alan Grant, with Laura Dern returning in a small role. This time out, Grant is hired by a couple (William H. Macy and Tea Leoni) for a flyover of one of the dinosaur islands. It turns out they've tricked him into serving as guide on a rescue mission.

Dealing with computer-created and animatronic dinosaurs turned out to be harder than Johnston expected. Compounding matters, he found himself without a workable screenplay five weeks before shooting began.

Parallel stories

The original script, involving parallel stories about the island and dinosaur attacks on the mainland, proved unwieldy. Johnston tossed it out and commissioned a simpler screenplay, often getting script pages just two or three days before shooting.

"It was bad for a while," he said. "There were times when I actually convinced myself that the only way to survive was to get off the show. I called my agent three or four times during production and asked, 'If I had to leave the show, what would happen?'"

Johnston was able to adapt elaborate effects and action sequences planned for the original plot into the new story. The movie features a bigger, badder predator than the T-Rex of the first two films: a spinosaurus, a ravenous meat-eater with a crocodile-like snout.

Spielberg showed up on set the first day Johnston shot the animatronic spinosaurus, a scene where the creature is supposed to rip apart a plane. The dinosaur's fingernails broke off.

"We're all standing there going, 'Oh, my God,'" Johnston said.

"Steven just walked to me and said, 'I'm really glad I can go home now. You have to stay.'"

Tight film

The result of Johnston's headaches is a tight film that runs barely over 90 minutes, 30 to 40 minutes shorter than the first two movies.

That may boost its box-office prospects, allowing theaters to squeeze in an extra screening each day. Johnston is not too concerned about whether the movie can rival the debut of "The Lost World," which opened on a prime moviegoing holiday weekend and had Spielberg's luster as director.

"I would love to see this one have a better opening weekend than 'Lost World,'" Johnston said. "If it doesn't quite make it, that's OK by me. I think it's going to be a lot of fun for people, and that's the main thing."

As big as Spielberg is in Hollywood, the "Jurassic Park" franchise may have outgrown even his name.

"The stars are the dinosaurs," said Paul Dergarabedian of Exhibitor Relations, a box-office tracking firm. "As long as they return, you can have a movie people will want to see, even without Spielberg directing."

Adviser

Johnston plans to be out of pocket when weekend grosses come in. He's going on a dig in Montana with dinosaur expert Jack Horner, an adviser on all three films.

Spielberg has a story idea for a possible fourth "Jurassic Park" movie that would move the franchise in a new direction, beyond dinosaurs on islands, Johnston said.

"I'm sure somebody's going to have fun directing it," he said, adding that it would not be him.

"What Steven said was right: These movies are hard. They're logistically almost impossible to do. I feel like I've done it. I'm happy with the results. I think people are going to enjoy this film, but I'm ready to step aside and let somebody else do it." *AP*

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Pops is featured star on GMA's ‘Larawan’

By Edmund L. Sicam

POPS Fernandez will soon be seen on GMA, but that doesn't mean that she is leaving ABS-CBN, the station that she is most identified with. Pops managed to get permission from her home network to allow her to become the featured star on "Larawan" for the month of August. The first episode will be shown on Aug. 1, after the sitcom, "Beh, Bote Nga".

"ABS was nice enough to allow me to do this project," Pops says. She further reveals that she actually does not have a contract with ABS-CBN at present."

Different stories

Pops shares that she was very excited to do this project. "It's because I got to do different stories. It's still a learning process for me when it comes to acting. So I liked the fact that I worked with different directors and actors and a different scenario each week. That was very challenging."

They have already shot four episodes. The first, which is Pops' favorite, features her good friends Bing Loyzaga and Princess Punzalan, along with Jaya. "It's about four women who grew up together, who have different problems, and yet they are smart and brave enough to sort them out," "While we were shooting the episode, we were just laughing the whole time!"

Newcomer

The second episode has her acting opposite newcomer Carlo Muñoz. Eyebrows might be raised at this episode because of the parallelisms to some issues in Pops' real life right now. The morning of the press con, an article came out in another newspaper insinuating that there was something going on between Pops and a much-younger actor Piolo Pascual.

Pops explains where the idea for this episode's story came from. "The truth is, I go out with guys younger than me. Why? Maybe it's because times have changed. I read that younger guys tend to go out with older women because they find them more secure and they know exactly what they want in life. And that's how that came about. Now if you want to connect it to what's happening right now, go ahead. I don't mind . . ."

FERNANDEZ. "I can't see the same people all the time."

Nervous

The third episode pits her against Albert Martinez. The very dramatic episode was directed by Joel Lamangan and Pops admits she was quite nervous to be working with him. But she learned a lot from the acclaimed director. She says she was more at ease with lead actor Albert Martinez.

The last episode reunited Pops with her first love team partner, Rowell Santiago. This episode was directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes. "I was so glad Rowell said yes to the project because I know he hasn't acted for a long time." How did she react when she found out she would be acting with Rowell Santiago? "*Wala . . . ayon . .*" she says sheepishly, then she breaks into laughter. "*E*, before *naman*, the movies that we did before were so *pa*-cute so now we're more mature, we've gone through so much in life. But he definitely still is a very good actor."

Hectic schedule

Pops says that her schedule these days is full of work, work, work. She has schedules which run for 48 hours straight. What motivates Pops to keep on working? "I tell myself . . . I accepted this job so I just have to give it my best, no matter how tired I am."

Pops reveals that her life now revolves around her work and her children. "If I have a free day, which is very rare, I spend it with the kids." If she has more free time, she goes out on a date "Why? Because I owe it to myself. I cannot be in a cage and just see the same people all the time!"

Rumors

The fact that she was seen watching the concert of "The Hunks" where Piolo plays a major part, sparked the rumors about them. Pops is upset about the speculations. "I don't see anything wrong with watching The Hunks. First of all, they're my friends, especially Carlos, Diether and Piolo."

Pops says that she is already used to reports that she was seen with such and such a person and that she has no problem with that. What upset her most about this latest report was that she felt it was an attack on her personality. She's particularly incensed at being called a "sugar mommy" and a "cradle snatcher."

"My character and my personality, that nobody should touch. Because they don't live with me. They don't know me that well." She worries that her male friends might think twice about hanging out with her in the future. "I'm hoping that they don't think *naman* that when I talk to them, I only look at their bodies, or something!"

Aloe vera is good for the body as a whole

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

ALOE vera is recognized by Filipinos as a natural promoter of hair growth and healthy hair. However, this wonderful plant has many more benefits to offer than it is traditionally known for.

Tanja Hirschsteiner shares various amazing uses for aloe vera in her book "Home Remedies form A to Z." Aloe vera is not only good for the hair but for the body as a whole.

Infections

She states, "Recurring bacterial, viral or fungal infections often result in colds, urinary bladder infections and many other ailments. Since aloe vera strengthens the immune system, it is an effective prophylactic agent against various infectious diseases.

"The herb is even said to significantly enhance the body's ability to fight tumor cells. Aloe vera accelerates the regeneration of every kind of cell found in the body and helps repair the damage caused by environmental toxins and radiation."

Hirschsteiner recommends the drinking of alloin-free aloe vera juice over a period of three weeks to address immune deficiency and allergies. (Commercially prepared aloe vera juices generally remove alloin which has a laxative effect on the body. Fresh juice from cut aloe leaves should be taken internally.)

For the general prevention of illness, drinking aloe vera juice in the spring and fall would be helpful. Since we don't have such seasonal changes here, it would be useful to boost our immune system during the peak flu seasons here as a preventive measure.

It has been discovered that aloe vera's effectiveness as an immune system booster is due to acemannuan, a kind of cell defense substance that the body maintains naturally until the teenage years. After puberty, acemannuan needs to be taken from external sources such as aloe vera.

Aloe vera has also been noted to assist in treating damage caused by radiation. In addition, the mucilage found in aloe vera leaves aids in the relief of pain, controls inflammation, promotes healing of wounds and reduces scarring.

Skin care

Hirschsteiner also describes the wonderful benefits of using aloe vera as a skin care product. She explains. "Aloe vera penetrates into and affects the deep layers of the skin. Its active ingredients accelerate cell regeneration, prevent dryness, and give the skin a smoother, softer appearance. Aloe vera protects the skin from intense sun exposure and soothes sunburn. That's why it's used as an ingredient in many sunscreens."

Here are some beauty care tips from Hirschsteiner:

Sunburn: After the skin has cooled off, keep applying aloe vera until the redness has subsided. Or cut off a fresh aloe leaf and allow the gel to drip onto the sunburned areas.

Wounds. When applied to wounds, aloe vera gel (or fresh juice from a cut leaf) speeds up the healing process and reduces the risk of scarring.

Scars. Massage scars regularly with aloe vera gel or cream.

Acne. Apply aloe vera gel mornings and evenings, and treat your skin with a facial mask of aloe vera once or twice a week.

The book's recipe for an effective aloe vera facial mask:

"Simply apply a thick layer of aloe vera gel to your face and allow it to dry. If the skin feels too tight, mix in some almond, jojoba, or other oil to serve as a base for the mask. You can also add aloe gel to any commercially available mask, or prepare your own.

"The following recipe is for a facial mask you can make yourself for any type of skin: Prepare one tablespoon of aloe vera gel and two tablespoons of low fat yogurt. Mix the aloe vera gel with the yogurt and apply the mixture to your face and throat. Leave on for 20 minutes, then rinse off with lukewarm water."

Best results

Is this facial mask an expensive treatment? Definitely not. Hirschsteiner teaches us how to make our own gel: "Fresh aloe gel produces the best results. Break off a lower leaf and cut off it spines. Cut the leaf down the middle and either place half of it directly onto the affected area of the skin, or remove and apply the gel made from inside the leaf. Fresh leaves can be kept in the refrigerator for a few days."

If you don't want to make your own gel, commercial preparations are available for external use only.

With all the benefits derived from aloe vera, it is wise to keep several plants in our garden. They are not difficult to grow and they can be easily propagated. Why not get some today?

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 28 – AUG. 3

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vanpires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *The Punisher* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST *Once Upon A Time in China & America* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	6:00 Viva Premiere Night *Pipti-Pipti (1 Por U, 2 Por Me)* 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Fist of Fury *Tuñacao vs. Mangubat* (Main event)	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Survivors* 9:00 E! Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Aaron Spelling* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
[illegible]	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Stompin' at the Savory* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *On Deadly Ground* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Before Sunrise* 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Game1 7:30 PBA GAme 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva Music Channel 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5.00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *Cheers* 9:00 Mega Fashion Awards 11:00 The Best of 60 minutes 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Philippine Open	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 Guni-Guni 8:00 The Big Night *Little Shaolin and the Crazy Soldiers* 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonballZ 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:15 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	6:30 Viva Proudly Presents 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 WNBA 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Philippine Open	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Ultimate Killer* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Kool Ka Lang 10:15 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Action Cinema 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:30 Viva Music Channel 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Hugh Grant* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Jude Law* 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Diyos At Bayan	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Beh Bote Nga 10:15 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Imbestigador	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Malcolm In the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Bully the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 Concert At The Park 5:30 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Explore With Mike 11:00 Paco Park Presents	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 10:15 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Hour	6:30 TeleViva Specials 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Digimon 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7:00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pokemon 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:15 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Holding the Baby 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Let's Play Pool 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On 12:00 Talk Soup

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Ricky Martin breaks down stereotypes and transcends his ethnicity

By Leia Torre

(Conclusion)

NOW based in California, Ricky Martin first appeared in the soap "Getting By." He later replaced Antonio Sabato Jr. as resident hunk in "General Hospital," one of the longest-running shows on ABC. He just became more famous than ever.

While still in "General Hospital," Ricky released his third solo album, "A Medio Vivir" (Ricky loosely translates this to mean "half-way across the bridge of life").

The songs in the album expressed a broader range than that on the previous two compilations, including cuts with pop and rock influences, in addition to the Latin sound (its first single was "Uno, Dos, Tres, Maria," which became the No. 1 song just about everywhere). Later Ricky was tapped to play Marius in "Les Miserables," the long-running Broadway show based on the book by Victor Hugo.

Ricky made his first appearance in "Les Miz" on June 24, 1996, and drew a large group of supporters, including his beloved grandmother, who flew to New York in spite of her lifelong fear of airplanes. Ricky's Broadway efforts lasted until Sept. 8, 1996.

Ricky was able to release another hit single, "Maria," while he was still in the show. After that stint, Ricky was chosen to dub Disney's Spanish version of "Hercules."

He also recorded the theme song, "No Importa La Distancia," which coincidentally relates to Ricky's life mission of going the distance to achieve his greatest dreams and ambition.

Fourth album

It was only when he released his fourth album, "Vuelve," that Ricky started to target Asia as a possible market. By then, he was also embarking on a grand concert tour. That year, Ricky sang "La Copa De La Vida" during the 1998 World Cup.

For his fifth album, his first English-language compilation, Ricky and Robi Rosa collaborated with Desmond Child and Emilio Estefan. When he got nominated for a Grammy for "Vuelve," Sony Records was pushed to mount a huge publicity campaign for Ricky.

One way to do that was to perform in the highly rated awards night. On Feb. 24, he got onstage, shook his bonbon, and the rest is history. Puerto Ricans began to fear that Ricky was being drawn further away from his Latin roots and led deeper into American culture, but he was quick to dispel those fears. To assure his hometown fans, he taped commercials aimed to boost tourism for Puerto Rico. He proved to be loyal to his country, and became the best choice for spokesman of Puerto Rico.

MARTIN. Going the distance.

Every project Ricky has worked on is something that he believes in. He was driven by his desire to introduce the world to the beauty, excitement, and artistry of Puerto Rican culture. But that desire alone would not have been enough to take Ricky as far as he has gone.

Romantic

According to Ricky, there is no language like Spanish. It is the language of his homeland, the first language he ever learned. He also confesses to being a romantic.

"I love bringing a rose to a girl and I love poetry," he says. Ricky describes the perfect date as "one that is unplanned. We could meet on the street and decide to have coffee. I may never see the girl again, but it was a beautiful date."

One interesting detail, and perhaps the only one hinting about an existence of a love life for Ricky, reveals the name of his on-again, off-again girlfriend for more than 10 years, TV personality Rebecca de Alba.

"I'm Latin, and I'm also a lover," explains Ricky. "It's funny because to some people being Latin means passion, blood, heat, and tragedy, and yet that's all very Shakespearean and Shakespeare wasn't Latin.

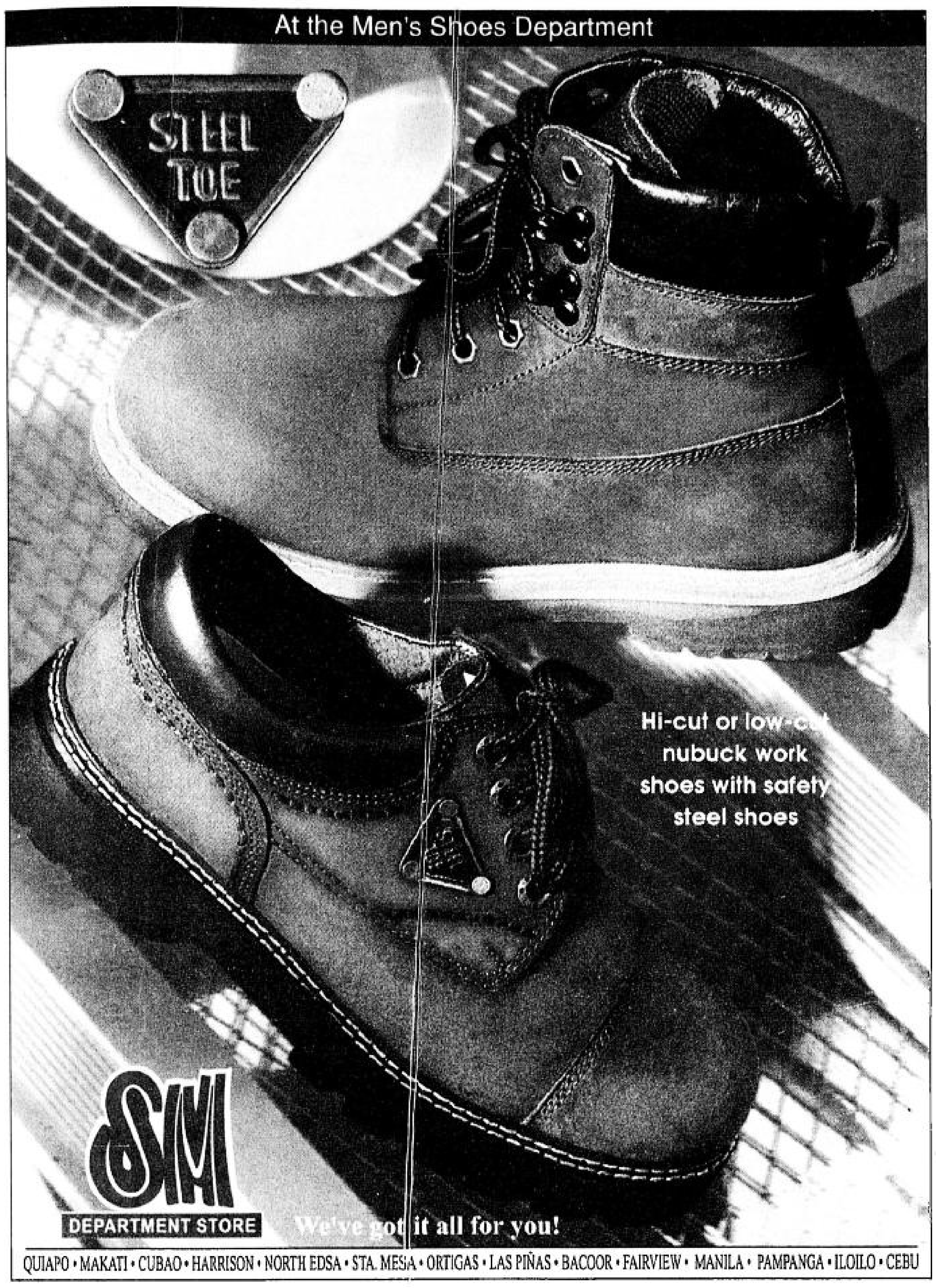
Equivalent

"When it comes to being Latin, saying we are Latin Lovers is not as bad as saying that we are the equivalent of 'West Side Story' with the gangs and the Mafia, the cocaine and stuff. So, given a choice, I guess it's better to be a lover than a fighter!

"I'm very proud of my culture and I understand that stereotypes come from ignorance. The best way to change minds is to teach people."

If you came anywhere near what Ricky Martin has accomplished, then you could just about do anything, including breaking down stereotypes and transcending your ethnicity on the global scene—without actually losing it!

At the Men's Shoes Department



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Say Cheeez!™
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SERVING SUGGESTION

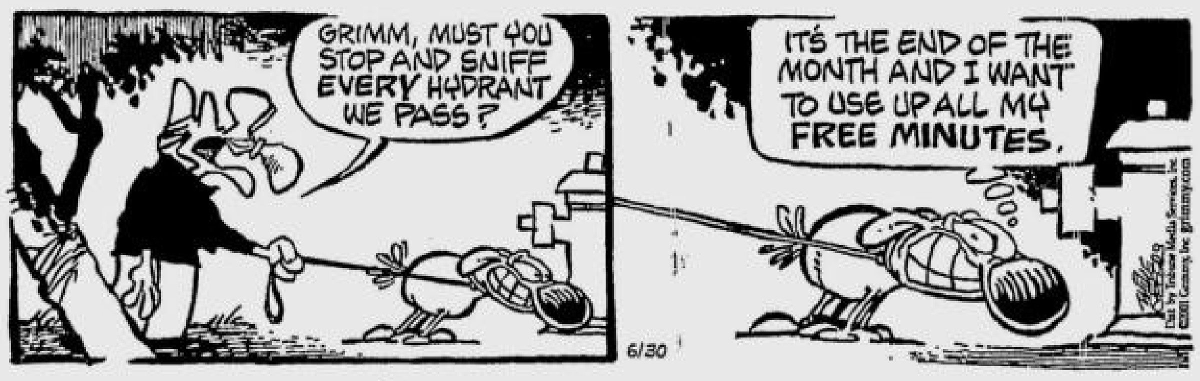
Best Foods
With Vitamin A and Iodine No Cholesterol
Say Cheeez!
with lean Bacon bits
CHEESE-BLENDED SPREAD
20 mL (0.68 FL OZ)
SERVING SUGGESTION

Healthy Na, Mas Abot Kaya Pa! ₱3.25 lang! SRP*

*Suggested Retail Price

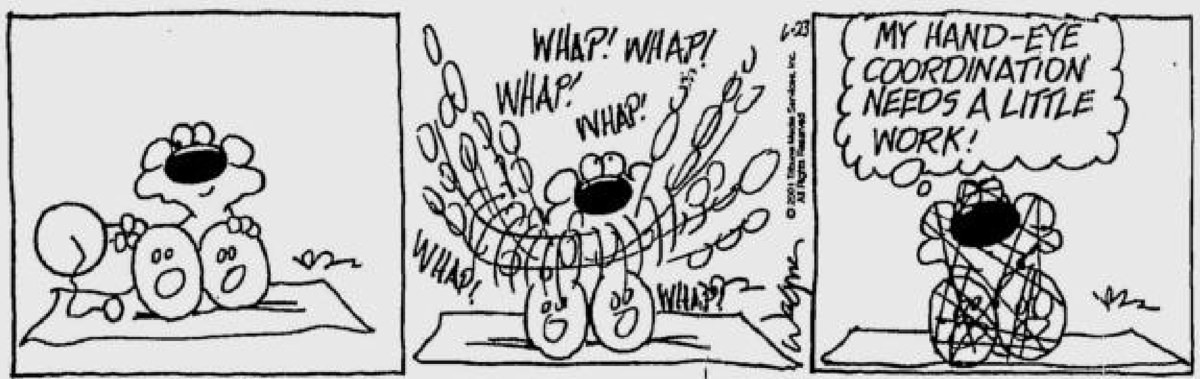
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, MUST YOU STOP AND SNIFF EVERY HYDRANT WE PASS?
IT'S THE END OF THE MONTH AND I WANT TO USE UP ALL MY FREE MINUTES.
6/30

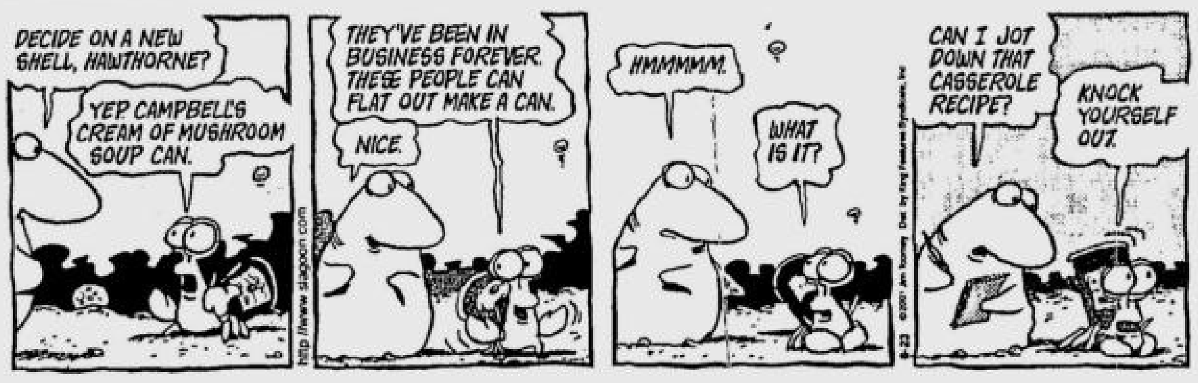
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAP! WHAP!
WHAP!
WHAP!
WHAP!
WHAP!
6-23
MY HAND-EYE COORDINATION NEEDS A LITTLE WORK!

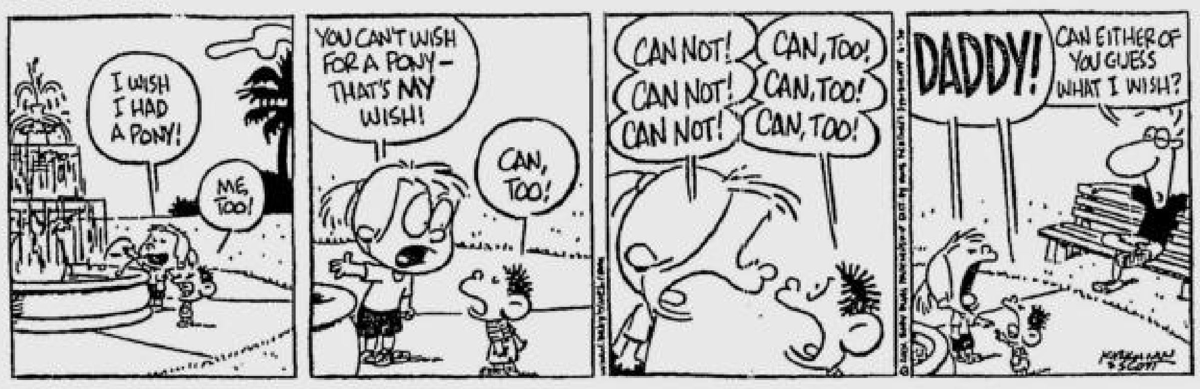
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


DECIDE ON A NEW SHELL, HAWTHORNE?
YEP. CAMPBELL'S CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP CAN.
THEY'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOREVER. THESE PEOPLE CAN FLAT OUT MAKE A CAN.
NICE.
HMMMMM.
WHAT IS IT?
CAN I JOT DOWN THAT CASSEROLE RECIPE?
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I WISH I HAD A PONY!
ME, TOO!
YOU CAN'T WISH FOR A PONY — THAT'S MY WISH!
CAN, TOO!
CAN NOT! CAN NOT! CAN NOT!
CAN, TOO! CAN, TOO! CAN, TOO!
DADDY!
CAN EITHER OF YOU GUESS WHAT I WISH?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jackie Onassis, Bill Bradley, Sally Struthers, Linda Kelsey, Jim Davis
Happy Birthday: You are capable of achieving your dreams this year if you buckle down on the projects you've been working on so diligently. You can finally make some headway and put the past behind. A softer approach will bring the encouragement and support that was lacking previously. Your numbers: 6, 20, 27, 35, 42, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It is a good idea to rest and avoid spending money. Put this day aside to sort out your thoughts and re-evaluate your direction. Positive changes are needed to get ahead this year.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be in a loving mood, so make plans early to spend time with your partner. Your magnetic nature will be too hard for your mate to resist.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put in a few extra hours of work and make some headway. You'll be surprised at how much you can accomplish when no one's around.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get ready to shake things up on the court. You need some competitive action. Your all-or-nothing approach will be difficult to beat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spend time alone today. Catch up on some household chores and don't let others get you down. Decisions about your personal life must be made.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll inspire confidence in others by sharing your ideas. You will enlighten newfound friends and find a place in groups.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to be taken advantage of if you are too willing to give money to children or friends. Don't pay for things that aren't worth it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be in a stubborn mood today. Don't let your uncompromising ways lead to estrangement. Your partner will be eager to go out with friends and leave you to fend for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Avoid getting mixed up in other people's problems. Your advice may be good but it is likely to backfire, leaving you minus some friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your involvement in groups may be fun but expensive. Don't play if you can't pay. Look into activities with the kids that won't cost a bundle.

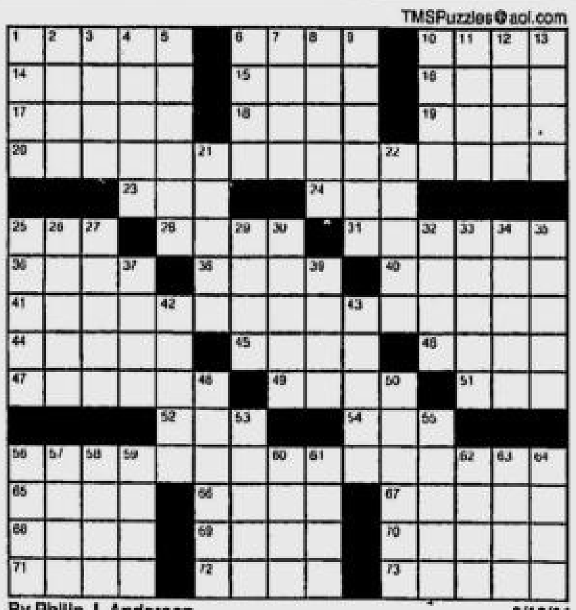
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be difficult to convince if you are set on doing one thing and your mate another. Go separate ways this time and give each other some space.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take an exciting trip or sign up for a course that interests you. Ignite that passion within you and take part in intellectual pursuits.

Birthday Baby: You are so sweet. You have so many different faces that at times you can confuse those around you. One moment you are serious and the next outgoing and boisterous. However, you are always thoughtful and never forgetful.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

6/12/01

ACROSS

1 Condescend
6 Littleneck, e.g.
10 Coin channel
14 Word before basin or wave
15 M. Descartes
16 Animal confinement
17 Japanese guard dog
18 Take apart
19 Ambiance
20 Military neophyte
23 Ross or Bering
24 Theological sch.
25 Gullible dupe
28 Three-handed card game
31 Rubble
36 Shivering fit
38 "Trinity" author
40 Formation flyers
41 Talk-radio neophyte
44 Privileged few
45 Ominous
46 Actress Garr
47 Send back
49 Expensive
51 X on a sundial
52 Hanoi holiday
54 Stitch up
56 Capitol Hill neophyte
65 Seep
66 Caspian Sea feeder
67 Slur over
68 Sound of rippling water
69 Apple choice
70 Very cold
71 Emblem
72 Mulligan's dish
73 __ Park, CO

DOWN

1 Lee or Kenton
2 Polynesian figurine
3 Norse Zeus
4 "Bellefleur" author
5 Metal sheets
6 Caked deposit
7 Olin or Horne
8 Gibb and Griffith
9 Spoke cat
10 Look over
11 Extol
12 Beastly character
13 Eye drop
21 Eastern Siberian
22 Greek last letter
25 Not as risky
26 Nimble
27 Holiday in the month of Adar
29 Very dry
30 Shy
32 Boxing champion's trophy
33 Sublease a flat
34 Val d'__, France
35 Green finch
37 Como __ Usted?
39 Mummified
42 Tithe amount
43 Quit
48 Objects
50 Mistrump
53 Fortune-teller's card
55 Cardiff's country
56 Beau Brummells
57 Profligate
58 Pound of poetry
59 Bear-market word
60 Identify
61 Murdered
62 Pinball goof
63 Garfield's pal
64 Cincinnati nine

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	O	W	S	■	C	A	T	E	R	■	P	E	S	T
T	R	A	P	■	A	L	A	M	O	■	I	G	O	R
A	L	T	I	■	R	E	L	I	T	■	S	O	N	Y
R	O	C	K	I	E	S	C	R	E	S	T	■	■	■
S	P	H	E	R	E	■	■	■	■	H	O	A	R	Y
■	■	■	L	I	N	U	S	O	R	E	L	I	H	U
B	A	S	E	S	■	N	U	B	I	A	■	R	E	M
E	T	T	E	■	E	D	G	E	D	■	S	E	A	M
T	E	A	■	T	R	I	A	L	■	S	U	D	S	Y
H	A	R	V	A	R	D	R	I	V	A	L	■	■	■
S	M	E	A	R	■	■	■	■	I	N	F	E	S	T
■	■	■	L	O	C	K	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R
S	N	E	E	■	R	A	O	U	L	■	R	O	D	E
A	I	N	T	■	A	L	O	N	E	■	I	N	A	S
P	A	D	S	■	B	E	R	E	T	■	C	O	N	S

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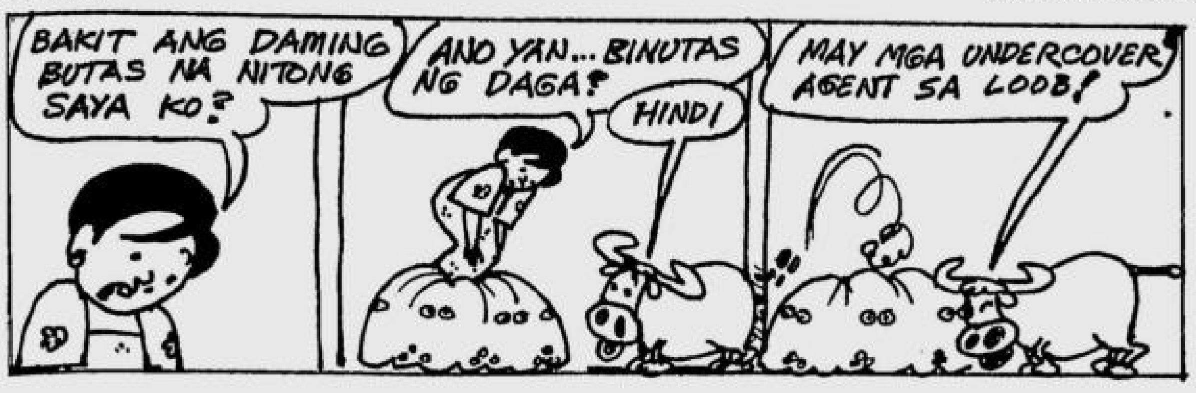
ANSWER ON MONDAY

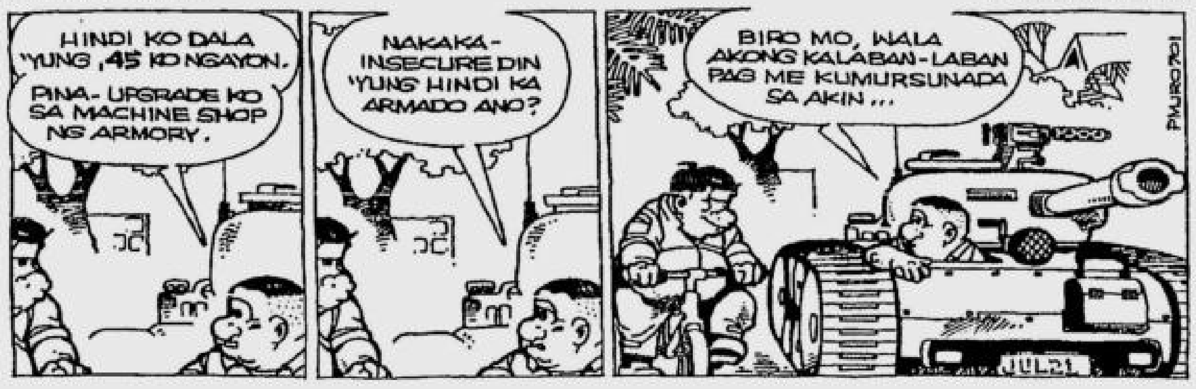
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT ANG DAMING BUTAS NA NITONG SAYA KO?
ANO YAN... BINUTAS NG DAGA?
HINDI
MAY MGA UNDERCOVER AGENT SA LOOB!

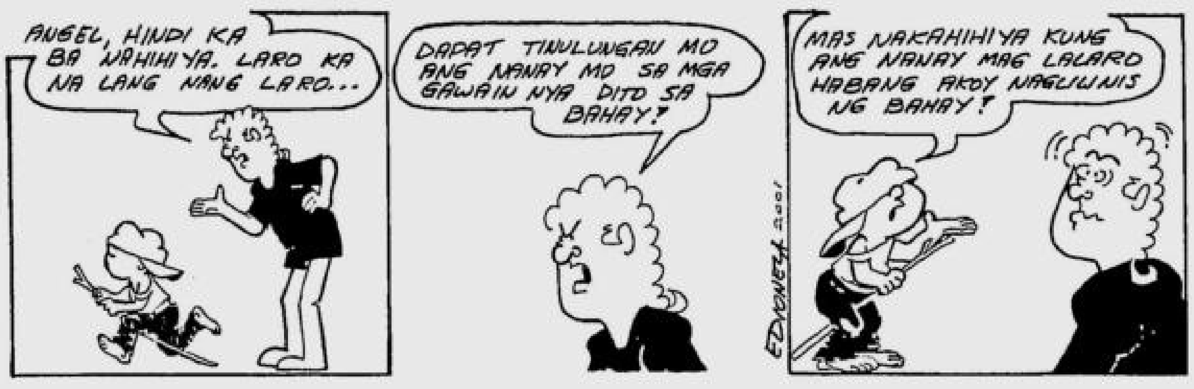
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI KO DALA 'YUNG .45 KO NGAYON.
PINA-UPGRADE KO SA MACHINE SHOP NG ARMORY.
NAKAKA-INSECURE DIN 'YUNG HINDI KA ARMADO ANO?
BIRO MO, WALA AKONG KALABAN-LABAN PAG ME KUMURSUNADA SA AKIN...
PMJR0701
JUL21

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, HINDI KA BA NAHIHIYA. LARO KA NA LANG NANG LARO...
DAPAT TINULUNGAN MO ANG NANAY MO SA MGA GAWAIN NYA DITO SA BAHAY!
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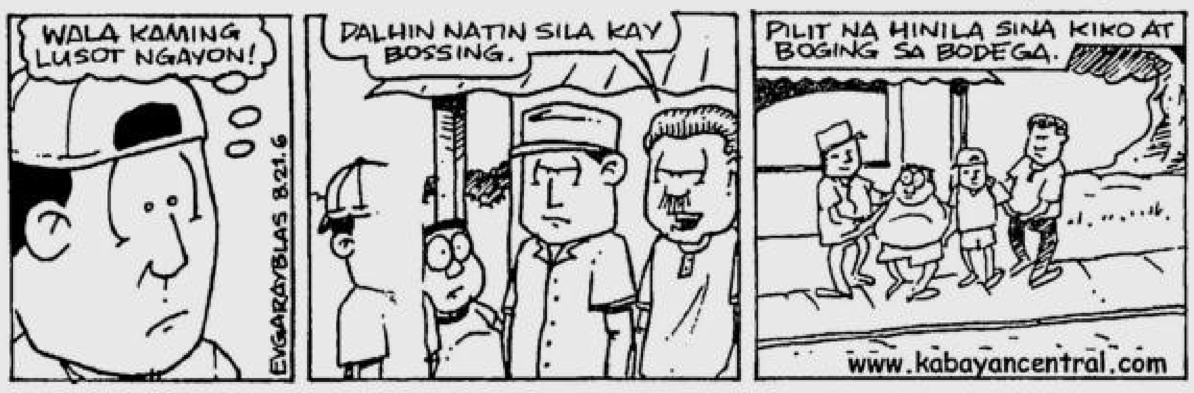
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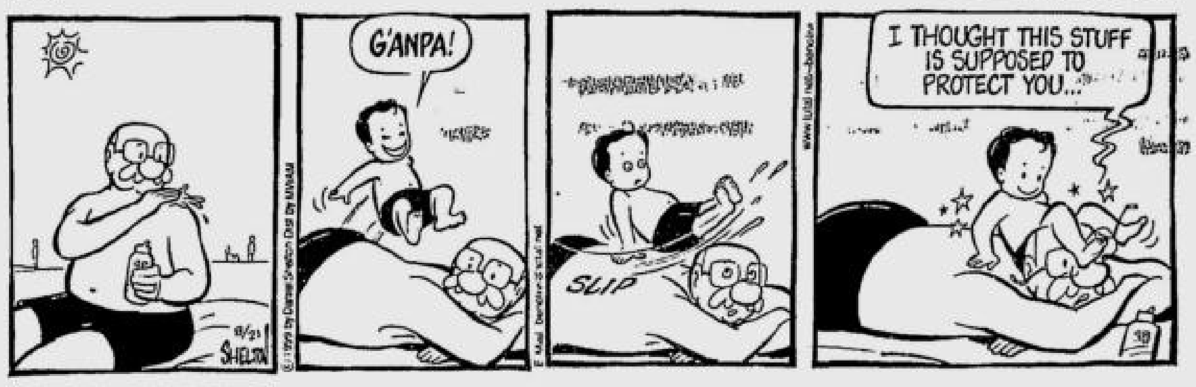
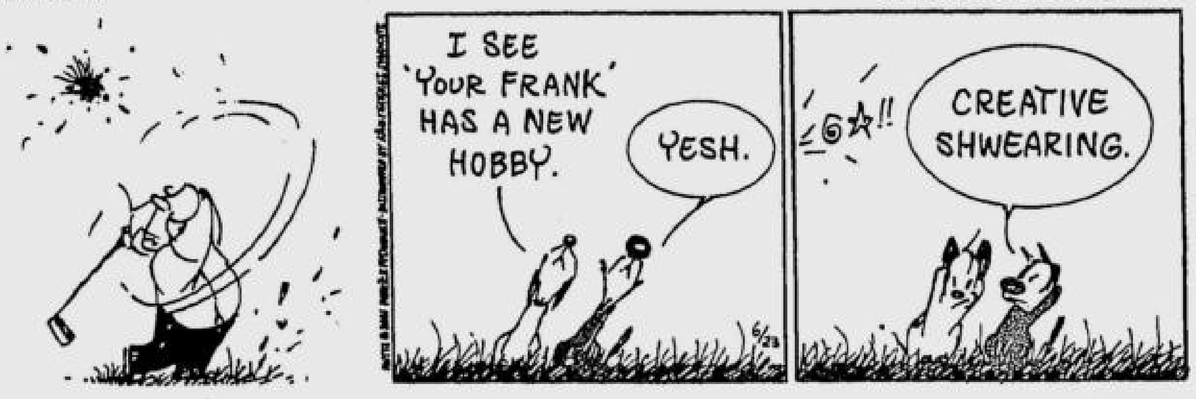

G'ANPA!
SLIP
I THOUGHT THIS STUFF IS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT YOU...
SHELTON

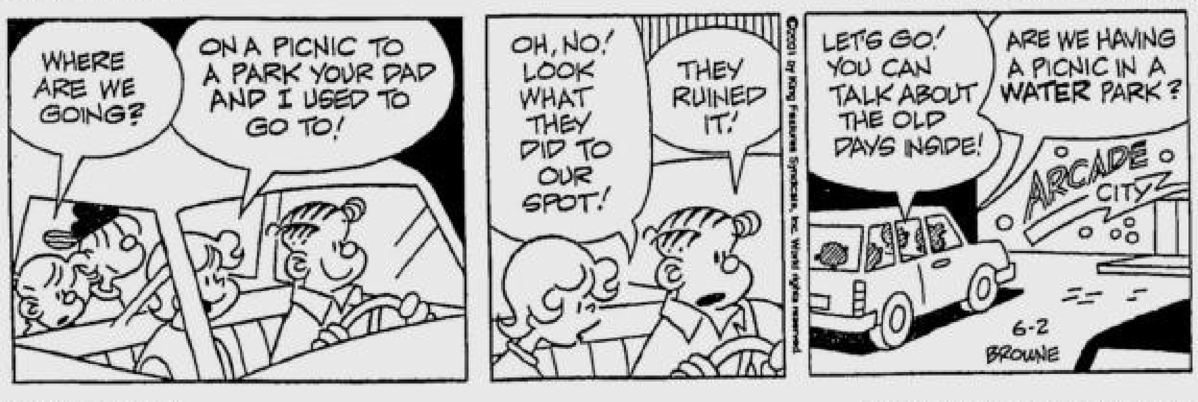
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I SEE 'YOUR FRANK' HAS A NEW HOBBY.
YESH.
6/23
CREATIVE SHWEARING.

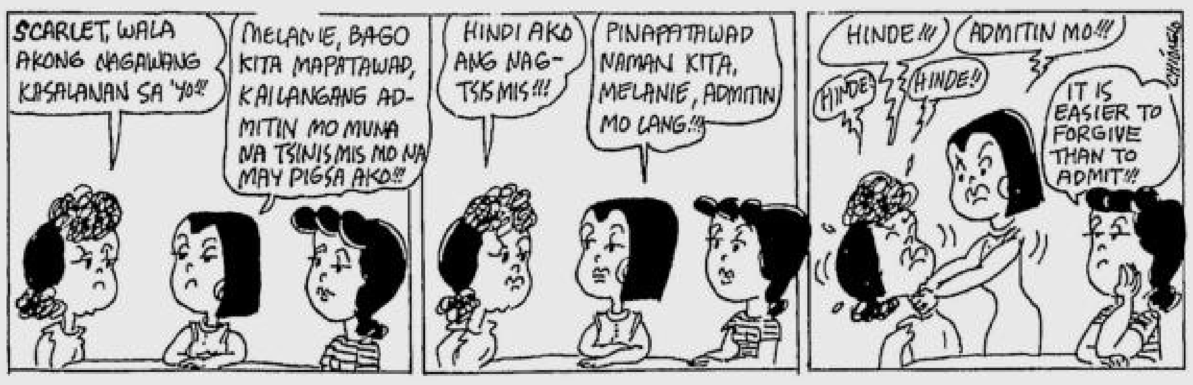
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHERE ARE WE GOING?
ON A PICNIC TO A PARK YOUR DAD AND I USED TO GO TO!
OH, NO! LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO OUR SPOT!
THEY RUINED IT!
LET'S GO! YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THE OLD DAYS INSIDE!
ARE WE HAVING A PICNIC IN A WATER PARK?
ARCADE CITY
6-2
BROWNE

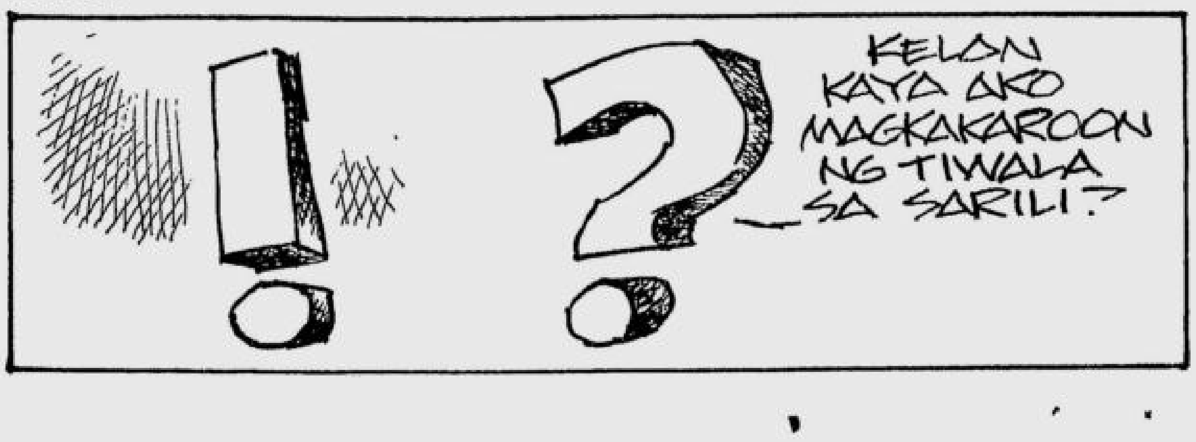
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, WALA AKONG NAGAWANG KASALANAN SA 'YO!!!
MELANIE, BAGO KITA MAPATAWAD, KAILANGANG ADMITIN MO MUNA NA TSINISMIS MO NA MAY PIGSA AKO!!!
HINDI AKO ANG NAG-TSISMIS!!!
PINAPATAWAD NAMAN KITA, MELANIE, ADMITIN MO LANG!!!
HINDE!!!
ADMITIN MO!!!
HINDE!
HINDE!!
IT IS EASIER TO FORGIVE THAN TO ADMIT!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


KELAN KAYA AKO MAGKAKAROON NG TIWALA SA SARILI?

'The Debut' wins acclaim at international filmfests

By Nestor U. Torre

THE BOOK on the film contains the movie's screenplay as well as a detailed account of how the film was made.

THANKS to Ernie Zarate for lending us his copy of "The Debut—The Making of A Filipino American Film." The book is an eye-opener and very inspiring to read because it details how some gifted and determined Filipino American filmmakers held on to their dream of making a feature film about the Fil-American experience, and didn't stop until they had actually completed production on it, 10 long years later!

Screenplay

The book contains the movie's screenplay, an introduction by the filmmakers, Gene Cajayon and John Manal Castro, and a long account of the making of the film, written by Dawn Bohulano Mabalon.

Before discussing the film itself, we are grateful to Ms Mabalon for the general information she provides on Filipino filmmaking in the United States:

We learn from her account that the first known Filipino American film is a silent short by Doroteo Silva, made in the early 1930s. Silva, a film student at the University of Southern California, documented the life of a Filipino in racist Los Angeles.

White bias

In 1967, Mabalon recalls, film students of color protested the white bias at the UCLA film school and expressed the wish to make films that served their specific communities. That "rebellion" resulted in a number of minority film initiatives, including a Filipino American movement.

In the '80s and '90s, Filipino American filmmakers started to come into their own, inspired by filmmakers of color like Spike Lee and Julia Dash, and partly funded by organizations like Los Angeles' Visual Communications and San Francisco's National Asian American Telecommunications Association (NAATA).

During the past two decades, some Filipino American filmmakers have been producing short documentaries and videos. They include Matthew Abaya, Mark Arbitario, Jessica Hagedorn, Rod Pulido, Noel Shaw, Angel Shaw and Celina Parrenas Shimizu.

Pulida's "The Flipside" premiered at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival. In 1997, Francisco Aliwalas made the first Filipino American feature film, "Disoriented," a comedy.

But "The Debut" is the biggest such production to date. It cost almost $1M to make, and has been hailed as an outstanding movie at several film festivals.

Premiere

Formerly titled "The Mercado Family Debut," "The Debut" had its premiere in May 2000 as the Opening Night attraction of the 15th Annual Visual Communications Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival in Los Angeles.

In July 2000, it won the Best Narrative Feature Film award at the San Diego Asian Film Festival, and was hailed as "a film that is groundbreaking to the community it serves."

In October 2000, it was the closing film at the Seattle Asian American Film Festival. Last November at the Hawaii International Film Festival, "The Debut" won the Audience Award for Best Feature Film.

In March 2001, it had its theatrical release on the closing night of the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. It will next be screened in the San Francisco Bay Area, and elsewhere in the United States and Canada. This December, it may be shown in the Philippines.

The film's future looks bright, but it's had quite a daunting past. The story of how it weathered all sorts of obstacles for a full decade before it was finally completed could inspire other young filmmakers to see their own cinematic dream projects through to their triumphant completion.

EDDIE Garcia, right, plays the clan's patriarch and is shown here with US-based actors Dante Basco and Bernadette Balagtas.

'The Quest for Noah's Flood' on National Geographic Channel

JOIN famed deep-sea explorer Dr. Robert Ballard, best known for discovering the "Titanic," as he searches the Black Sea, an alluring place of forbidden mystery, for the location of the biblical "Noah's Flood."

Secrets

For more than 25 years, Dr. Ballard had dreamed of probing the sea's mysterious depths. Its secrets hidden from Western scientists during the Cold War, the Black Sea harbors the legendary "dead zone," a deep layer of lifeless water that cannot sustain the creatures that normally eat away at sunken ships.

The oxygen-free waters act as a giant preservation tank, where the world's most celebrated shipwreck hunter envisioned finding perfectly intact ancient ships, their masts still standing.

Tune in to "The Quest for Noah's Flood" on the National Geographic Channel on Sunday, July 29 at 9 p.m.

As plans were made to mount an expedition to the Black Sea, two highly respected scientists from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory published a provocative book, "Noah's Flood: The New Scientific Discoveries About the Event that Changed History."

Cataclysmic flood

The book proposed that the Black Sea was transformed from a fresh-water lake to a brackish sea by a cataclysmic flood in 5,500 BCE, around the same time that some biblical scholars pinpoint as Noah's Great Flood.

The controversial idea compounded Dr. Ballard's fascination with the Black Sea, and he resolved to investigate the new theory. Intrigued, Ballard expanded his search to look for signs of human habitation along the shoreline of the former lake nearly 500 feet below the surface.

The discoveries of the 2000 expedition made headlines around the world. Using state-of-the-art robotic submersible technology, the explorers found four ancient shipwrecks, including one beautifully preserved with its mast and stanchions still standing.

Unexpected boon

Dating from between 410 and 520 CE, the rare find is an unexpected boon to marine archaeologists, who have never before been able to examine such a perfectly preserved vessel from this era.

And, tantalizingly, the expedition also uncovers what seems to be a man-made stone structural foundation in an area that could have been flooded 7,500 years ago. Proof that there were eyewitnesses to pass on the legend of the Great Flood? Time will tell.

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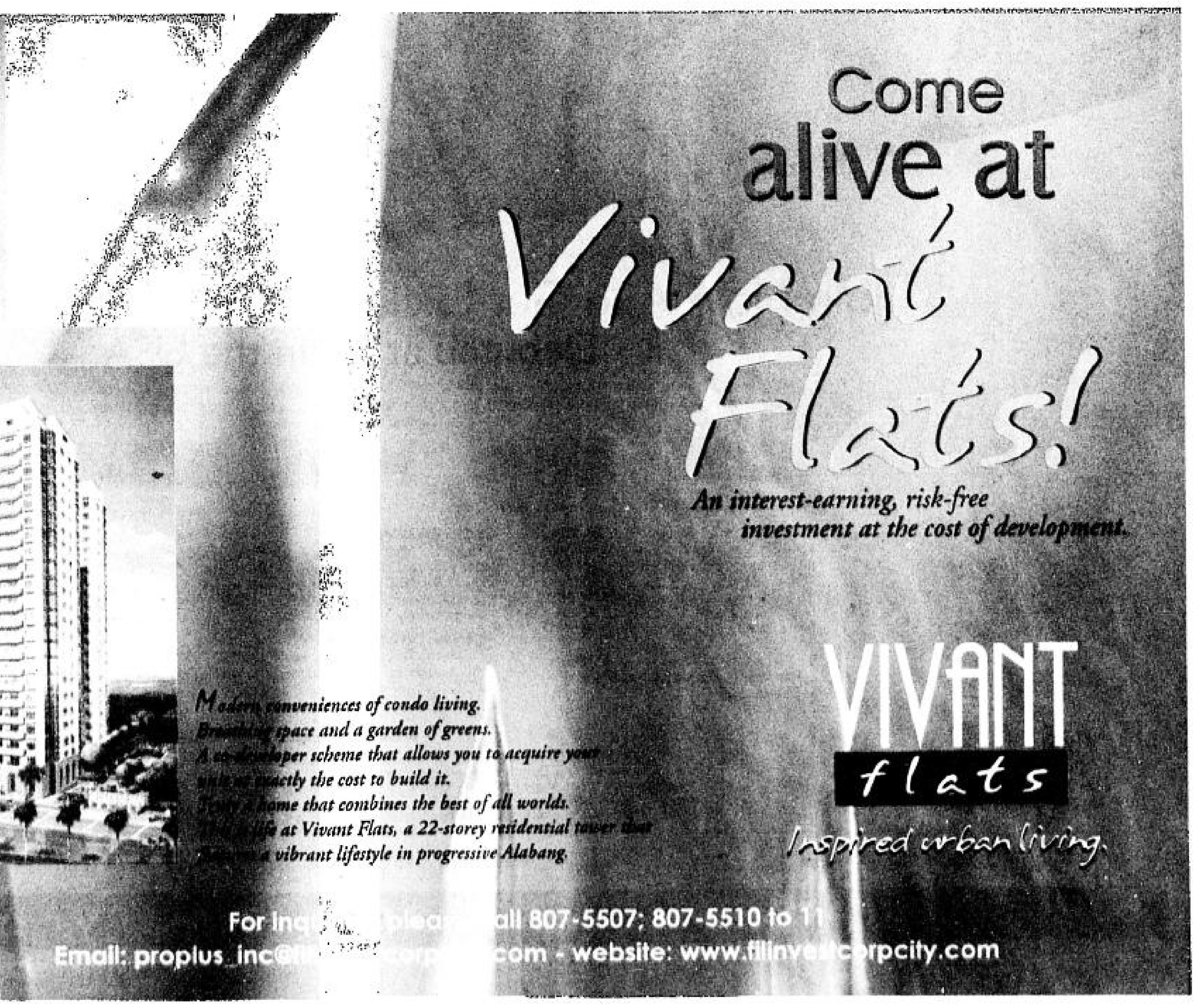

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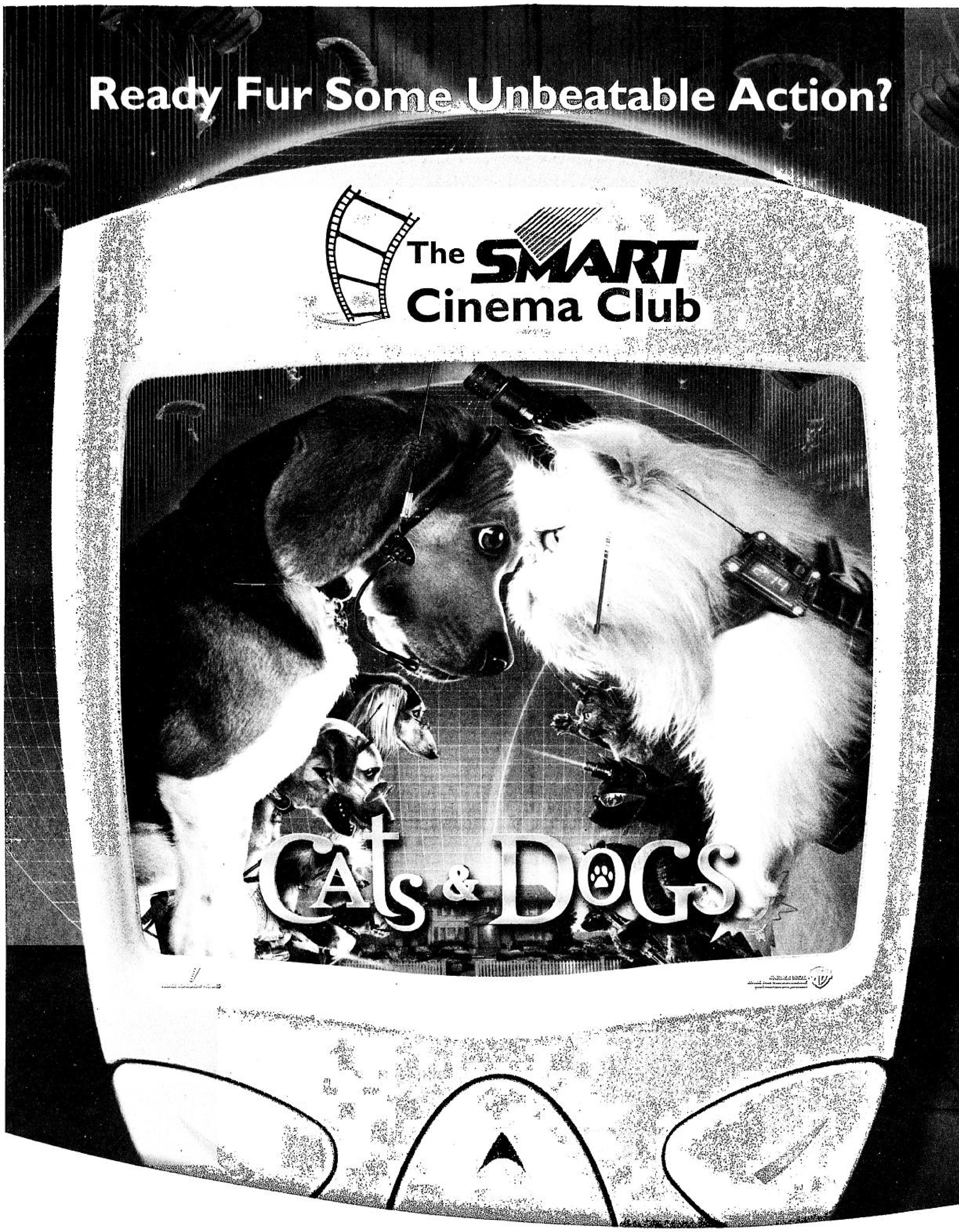
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Saturday SPECIAL

'The Score' has class and smarts

NORTON AND DE NIRO. Good performances.

The script is a slow build of heightening drama, laced with wit and insight into Nick's judicious philosophy of thievery

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Robert De Niro and friends come so close to scoring big with his latest heist caper. But they let the film run far into overtime, and as any good thief or studio executive knows, time is money.

Refreshingly coherent

Excessive running time aside, "The Score" has so much going for it: a straightforward story that's refreshingly coherent given the opacity of so many crime thrillers. Sharp dialogue, fine moments of understated tension, brassy humor, an innovative safecracking technique, a well-concocted surprise or two.

Good performances by De Niro and Edward Norton. And a jolly supporting turn from Marlon Brando as an amiable scamp worthy of Sydney Greenstreet in his "Casablanca" and "Maltese Falcon" days.

The trouble is, at just over two hours, there's simply too much of this movie. Director Frank Oz ("In & Out," "Bowfinger"), in his first foray away from comedy, lets "The Score" linger a beat too long in scene after scene, diluting the suspense and inducing a chronic case of the fidgets among viewers.

But "The Score" is still worth watching. It's got class and smarts that put recent bombastic heist flicks such as "Swordfish" and "3000 Miles to Graceland" to shame.

But Oz had a first-rate burglary flick in his grasp had he minded the minutes as closely as De Niro's time-conscious master thief does.

Veteran safecracker

De Niro plays Nick Wells, a veteran safecracker planning to retire and hang with his girlfriend (Angela Bassett), running his Montreal jazz club.

Enter Max (Brando), Nick's pal, financial adviser and fence. Max has one last, really big score that requires Nick's prudent, methodical touch.

Reluctantly, Nick signs on to steal a priceless antique scepter from the basement safe in the bunker-like Canadian Customs House. Nick even violates his principle rule—always work alone—agreeing to team with Max's inside man, Jack Teller (Norton), a savvy rookie who cases the Customs House in the guise of a retarded janitor.

The one-last-big-job premise may be cliched, but screenwriters Kario Salem, Lem Dobbs and Scott Marshall Smith make the most of it. Their script is a slow build of heightening drama, laced with wit and insight into Nick's judicious philosophy of thievery.

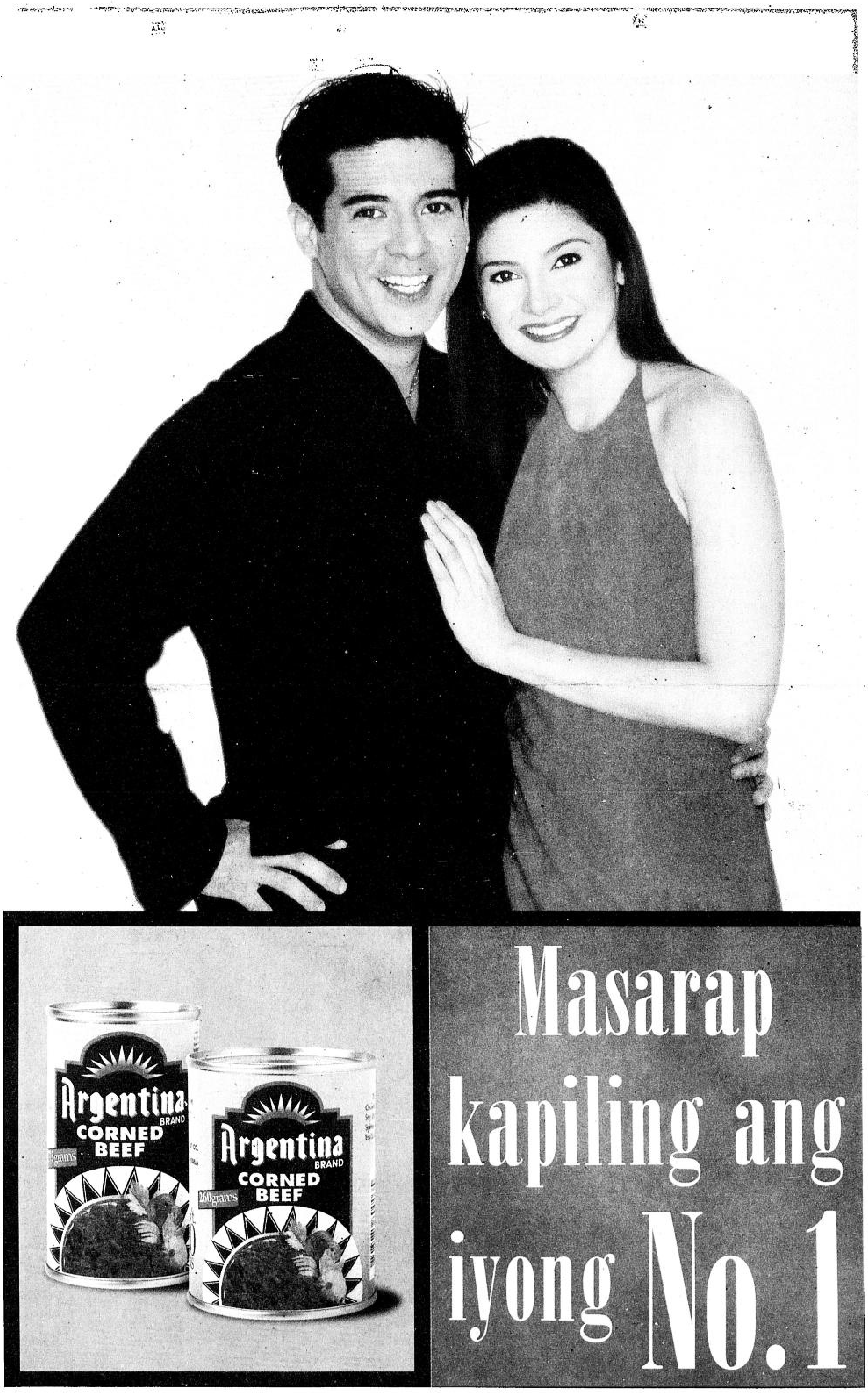
List

"Make a list of everything you want now," Nick tells Jack. "Then spend the next 25 years of your life getting it slowly, piece by piece."

Unfortunately, "The Score" cops that philosophy, moving too slowly, at times pausing when it should be dashing. There's fat in almost every scene, and there are significant chunks of the film—entertaining though they may be—that could have been jettisoned to improve the flow.

While De Niro, Norton and Brando deliver as a personable den of thieves, Bassett's role barely amounts to a walk-on. She has a moment or two early on, but her character feels like an afterthought once the heist heats up.

Howard Shore's jazzy score and a handful of well-chosen jazz standards nicely complement the film's muted atmosphere. And watch for brief cameos by jazz greats Mose Allison and Cassandra Wilson. *AP*



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Dolphy forever

ON Sunday July 29, ABS-CBN celebrates "Pidol Power" at 9:30 p.m. The TV special on master comic Dolphy's 50 years in show biz is executive-produced by Zsa Zsa Padilla.

The musical special is directed by Al Quinn, who like Dolphy was once a *bodabil* hoofer before TV and the movies claimed him for their very own.

The show goes from Dolphy's start as an obscure comedian named Golay in 1951, through his 1961 TV debut on "Buhay Artista," to his TV sitcom today, "Home Along da Riles."

Aside from guest performers like Regine Velasquez and Jolina Magdangal, Dolphy's brood will also appear in the special, which will further regale viewers with long-unseen footage from the king comic's shows through the years.

"Pidol Power" also marks Dolphy's 73rd birthday. He turned a year older on July 25.

'Highly Commended' citation for Rory B. Quintos

Meanwhile, we're happy to hear that ABS-CBN and Star Cinema director Rory B. Quintos has received a "Highly Commended" citation for her direction of the TV soap. "Pangako Sa 'Yo," from the Asian Television Technical and Creative Awards.

Quintos is one of the TV-film directors whose career we've followed and written about from the start, because her early work showed that she was willing to go the extra mile as a director of quality productions, despite the industry's commercial bent.

She was active in theater at UP, then worked in a variety of jobs on TV, from production assistant, talent coordinator and production manager, to associate producer, assistant director, and finally as one of the directors of "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

She has also directed some creditable movies including "Anak," which will be screened this September at the Fukuoka International Film Festival.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The Asian TV Awards honor the best work on television in the region. Annually, it attracts more than 1,000 entries from 23 countries.

This is the first year that the tilt has presented an entire slate of awards for technical and creative categories. Quintos' "Highly Commended" citation is the only award won by a Philippine TV program.

"Pangako Sa 'Yo" airs weeknights at 7 p.m. on Channel 2.

Street party

The newly opened T.G.I. Friday's restaurant at Sta. Lucia East showcased the Mulatto Band at its street party last night at Sta. Lucia's Brickroad strip. Prizes were awarded to partygoers who wore the zaniest headgear.

Earlier, some government officials cut the ceremonial ribbon with executives from Bistro Holdings Corp. Friday's mother company in the Philippines.

Other events that made the day special included a trivia contest and the restaurant's bartenders' bottle-flipping act. The Sta. Lucia East restaurant is the dining chain's sixth Friday's branch in the Philippines.

'Julius Caesar'

Dulaang Sibol is presenting its production of William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" on July 28 (today) and Aug. 10 and 11 at Tanghalang Onofre Pagsanghan at the High School complex at the Ateneo campus in Loyola Heights.

Dulaang Sibol is an important seedbed for Philippine theatre that has produced major creative talents like Tony Perez and Paul Dumol, under the judicious nurturing of its well-loved managing director, Mr. Pagsi.

DOLPHY. Celebrated 73rd birthday last week.

GOLEZ. Finishing his Master of Music degree at UP.

Search for Nicole Kidman look-alike

The ongoing search for a local look-alike of Nicole Kidman ends at 10 p.m. tonight at Hard Rock Café in Makati, sponsored by Guess? USA. The search is a promo for Kidman's latest starrer, "Moulin Rouge."

The musical film's original soundtrack has been dominating the airwaves via its carrier track, "Lady Marmalade," performed by Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil Kim and Pink.

Young pianist in concert

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation presents young pianist Rudolf Pelaez Golez in a special concert at 7 p.m. on Aug. 3 at Equitable PCIBank's Antonio Molina Hall.

AT age 13, Golez studied in New York at Julliard Prep under Seymour Lipkin. After five years of training in New York, he finished Music and English in Cebu City and is finishing his Master of Music degree at the University of the Philippines.

Golez will play two Scarlatti sonatas, the Busoni transcription of the Bach Chaconne in D for violin, four Chopin Preludes, the Trianna from the Albeniz Suite, "Iberia," a Ligeti etude, and Rachmaninoff's Sonata in B-flat No. 2 Free admission. Call 818-1403.

Family fun

A whole day of fun and prizes awaits kids and their families on the next leg of the Pokemon Trading Card Game on Sunday, July 29, at SM City North Edsa. The competition is part of the monthly elimination series leading up to the grand national finals on Dec. 22 at SM Megamall.

Other exciting Pokemon-related activities included the TCG quiz, the Pokemon Interactive, and the "create your own Pokemon card" tilt.

QUINTOS. Cited for "Pangako Sa 'Yo."

'XYZ'

'XYZ' at 7 tonight on Channel 21 presents features on adopting a child, problems of infertility and some possible solutions, and the 10th anniversary of Kalakasan, an NGO defending women against violence. Ida Vargas directs.

Mas maganang pumasok kapag may bitbit.
Goldilocks
Goldilocks 35 1966-2001
How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.
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Other Pambaon treats: Marble Cake Slice, Sandwich Bread, Caramel Popcorn, Banana Nut Muffin. Bitbitin ang sarap.

Janus del Prado wants to be a versatile performer

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

"I'M a high school student at St. Joseph's College. Can you please feature Janus del Prado. I saw him in "Magic Kingdom," "Text," and "G-mik" and pretty soon I developed a huge crush on him. He's so cute and down-to-earth. What's his real name? Thanks and more power.— *April Lou Salazar of 9 16th St., New Manila, Quezon City"*

Real Name: Janus del Prado
Nickname: Epoy
Age: 16 years old
Height: 5'7
Weight: 112 lbs.
Hair: Black
Eyes: Black
Movies: "Magic Kingdom," "Batang X"
TV shows: "G-mik"
Hobbies: Watching TV
Sports: Ping-pong and bowling
Trivia: He likes the name Janus because it means gate in Roman mythology

Q&A:

How did you start in show business?

When I was five years old, I auditioned for Manny Valera. Then I did commercials for Zip orange juice and Pure Foods tender juicy hotdogs. It helped that my dad (Renato del Prado) acted in "Anna Liza" so I was exposed to it at a young age.

What do you like about being an actor?

I can transform myself into a different person. On 'G-mik,' I'm the bad influence of my *barkada*. Sometimes I can be serious and good like my character in 'Maalaala Mo Kaya.'

Good directors

Working with good directors is also a good learning experience, *lalagyan nila ng ibang dating ang* acting *mo*.

What do you like about having a regular TV show?

May bonding. *Masaya*, solid *ang samahan pero* welcome *ang* newcomers. We all hang-out off-camera and *maraming pagkain palagi*.

Do you have a huge appetite?

Depende sa pagkain.

What's your favorite food?

I love seafood especially fish. I also enjoy eating pork. *Ang ayaw ko talaga, gulay at pinakbet. Ayoko rin ang* olives, *hindi ko ma*-describe *ang lasa.*

What's the one thing you can't live without?

TV. *Mawala na lahat, huwag lang ang* TV.

What makes a girl attractive?

Gusto ko sa babaeng tisay, mapula ang lips *at may* long hair. Someone with unusual eye color. *Basta hindi* common *ang kulay ng mata*, blue or green. *May dating ang* chin *pero hindi naman* cleft chin. *Makapal ang* eyebrows. I want someone who understands me, someone I can talk to when I have a problem. *Gusto ko, mabait.*

How would you describe yourself?

Carefree, boyish and spontaneous. *Kiti-kiti pero hindi ako mahilig sa* sports.

Would you like to be a comedian or a dramatic actor?

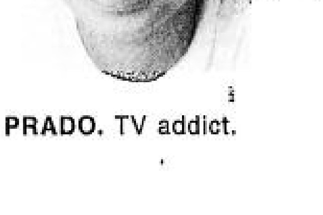
Both. I like to be like *Kuya* Jericho Rosales because he's a good dramatic actor. *Kuya* Dominic Ochoa is good in comedy. But I really idolize Tito Eddie Garcia for his versatility and attitude.

Do you want to be a matinee idol someday?

I want to be a character actor. *Mas kaya ko iyon kaysa maging* matinee idol.

Correction

"This is Mary Anne Meily, manager of R.O.B (Rest of the Boys) band. First of all, I would like to thank you for responding to the request of Mr. Francisco Acosta of Cavite last May 26. R.O.B's new vocalist is Yam Realo. She's a graduate of Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. She's also a product of Ryan Cayabyab's music school and the Center for Pop. I hope you find time to make the correction. Thanks and best regards.—*Mary Anne Meily, Maiton Enterprises Inc.*



DEL PRADO. TV addict.

THE MEMBERS of Class No. 36 during their graduation rites at Malacañang, with Secretary Reyes and President Arroyo.

UP prof is MNSA valedictorian

WHAT is known today as the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) owes its existence to President Diosdado Macapagal's Executive Order No. 44 signed in August 1963. The Executive Order mandated the creation of the National Defense College of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to aid in developing the nation's strategic concept of defense.

Importance

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Guest of Honor and Speaker at Regular Class No. 36's graduation rites held in Malacañang last July 17, underscored the importance of continuing her father's legacy and spoke to the graduates on the urgent need to contain the unrest in Mindanao and strengthen bilateral relations with our ASEAN neighbors.

Dr. Vivian A. Gonzales, RC 36 Class Mayor and Mr. Abraham A. Purugganan graduated with coveted Academic Achievement Awards, taking home gold and silver medals, respectively. What is of particular interest is why Dr. Vivian A. Gonzales, the class valedictorian, a Ph.D holder from the UP and former UPLB Dean of Students, enrolled in NDCP's Master in National Security Administration (MNSA) Program.

"Having pioneered the Values Integration and Promotion-Civic Welfare Service (VIP-CWS), I saw the ROTC Program's untapped potential for national security and development. As an advocate for its nationwide implementation I wanted to enhance my expertise to include that of national security concerns, since it was limited to that of an academician and development management practitioner's," she explains.

Component

For the past six years, Dr. Gonzales has been the strong force responsible for conceptualizing and carrying out the VIP-CWS component of the Expanded ROTC Program. CHED issued a Memorandum to all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) dated May 31, 1999 to adopt the VIP-CWS Program of Instruction (POI) Dr. Gonzales designed.

Dr. Gonzales piloted the VIP-CWS Program at UPLB during SY 1996-1997. It started as part of her vision as UPLB Dean of Students, the Students' Transformation and Enrichment for Truth (STET) paradigm which prioritizes venues for self-development and community service.

"When I took office as UPLB Dean of Students in 1995, I was disturbed by the findings of a survey which showed that UP students ranked low in social concern. It was also around that time that fraternity violence on the UPLB campus reached its peak. I came up with STET as a call to students to return to the noble ideals which their generation has seemingly forgotten, values that adhere to respect for human dignity, truth, and social responsibility. The various projects undertaken under STET like the VIP-CWS channel the youth's energies and talents into service-oriented concerns," she says.

Projects

Dr. Gonzales adds that her VIP-CWS cadets are involved in various environmental, health, socio-civic, and livelihood projects. They plant trees, donate seedlings, sponsor waste management seminars, medical missions, nutrition seminars and illegal drug awareness campaigns, offer tutorial services, and hold handmade paper making and silkscreen and t-shirt workshops.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

GONZALES (right) receives her award from Secretary Reyes and President Arroyo.

In the light of the controversy surrounding the ROTC, Dr. Gonzales is quick to clarify that although some sectors uphold her VIP-CWS as a justification for abolishing the ROTC's Military Training Service (MTS) component, she credits the mandatory one-year military training for contributing to VIP-CWS' success. "It would be impossible for me to carry out community work with my cadets if they did not first learn the discipline, respect for authority, and love of country that their MTS 11 and 12 training has exposed them to. I handled 500 VIP-CWS cadets during the first year the program was implemented, and I can tell you from experience that the program would not have worked out as well if I had conducted it in the same manner that I conduct my graduate classes.

Same manner

"From the beginning I tell those enrolled in my program that VIP-CWS is conducted in the same manner as MTS, only that it is conducted in and with the barangays and communities. My cadets, like MTS cadets, are required to wear the prescribed uniform and sport the prescribed haircut. They must not forget that our course offering is under the DMST," she says.

Hearing her speak, it is little wonder why Dr. Gonzales graduated at the top of her class. This year's MNSA graduates include the following civil servants: Ms Ma. Antoniette P. Aristoza and Atty. Dalisay O. San Jose (Senate), Dir. Christopher B. Lumbre and Dir. Victoria E. Valeriano (Civil Service Commission), Mr. Rodlolfo P. Agner (Philippine Public Safety College), Mr. Nicolas Z. Bolaños (National Mapping and Resource Information Authority), Supt. Nepumoceno M. Corpus, Jr. (PNP), Mr. Renato B. dela Cruz (Agricultural Training Institute);

Mr Mariano A. Gabito (DILG), Engr. Rebecca T. Garsuta (DPWH), Mr. Henry A. Reveche (Office of the Press Secretary, News and Information Bureau), and Atty. Emmanuel Y. Velasco (DOJ).

A handful of military men also received their MNSA diplomas this year. They are: Col. Joseph L. Aberde (PAF), Col. Nelson N. Allaga (PN, Marines), Capt. Reynaldo T. Basilio (PN), Capt. Ceferino B. Dacanay (PN), Capt. Franklin G. Mangonon (PN), Capt. Dante A. Romano (PN), Capt. Fortunato R. Sagudo (PN), Col. Michelangelo H. Siscar (PAF), and Col. Jose Daniel A. Trangco (PAF).

The following representatives from the private sector were likewise conferred with MNSA degrees: Mr. Ramon S. Buyco (Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corporation), Mr. Don Ferdinand A. Dacquial (MBC Construction), Mr. Eduardo F. Evangelista (Medical Specialty Hospital, Inc.), Mr. Alexander M. Gerrick (Australian Defense Organization), Mr. Rodrigo C. Mejia (Australian Defense Force Academy), Ms. Thelma D. Murillo (Radio Veritas-Global Broadcasting System), Mr. Abraham A. Purugganan (MAK Communication System, Inc.) and Mr. Wilson T. Young (Tanduay Distillers).

A trilogy of sexy tales from Maryo J. delos Reyes

BY REMY U. UMEREZ

WHILE making his latest film, "The Red Diaries," Maryo J. delos Reyes decided to shoot the most expensive episode first before his producer Mother Lily, put her foot down.

Plus factors

"Red Diaries" was definitely not produced on a shoestring budget. Among its plus factors are its sizzling new star, Assunta de Rossi, and *Direk* Maryo, who is known for his above-average movies.

"Red Diaries" was inspired by the true confessions sent to Xerex and read by many in a tabloid. The original cast included Ara Mina, Ina Raymundo and Priscilla Almeda until it was shelved because the budget soared. But Mother Lily wouldn't let go of the project, so she decided to give it to Assunta de Rossi, who wanted to give her career another try via the sexy route.

Apprehensive

The award-winning Maryo was apprehensive at the start whether Assunta could really do all the bold scenes the story required her to do.

"I didn't want a half-baked performance *at lalong ayoko ng maarte,*" he says.

"We had a heart to heart talk and I asked her what she would not be capable of doing. She said going topless was alright but she was not ready for frontal nudity."

It was the topless seduction scene that was shot on the first shooting day.

Innermost secrets

In "Red Diaries," Assunta portrays three women whose innermost secrets are revealed in their diaries. Susanna is the two-timing mistress, Cara is the prodigal daughter and sexual fantasy of a seminarian, and Lucila is the martyr and battered wife of a policeman.

The release of "Red Diaries" comes at a time when sex and morality are being questioned, what with the reorganization of the MTRCB. Maryo J. is not fazed by the situation.

"It is not by choice that I do films featuring sex and violence. *Nagkakataon lang.* But how can you possibly ignore sex when you are dealing with relationships? I don't attempt to sensationalize violence. Nor do I count the number of breast exposures in my movies. As a director, I am only responsible to myself. Our mores and standards should not be co-terminus with the term of a president. Culture should grow with the people," he says.

Mikey wants to make it on his own

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THE PRESIDENT'S son, Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo, faces a no-win situation when it comes to managing his political and show biz career. No matter how much he distances himself from the person sitting in Malacañang, some people will always say that he became vice-governor of Pampanga because of his mother. By choice, he made it a point not to mention his mother during the campaign and GMA never showed up for any of his sorties.

Experience

Despite his long experience helping manage GMA's campaign for the senate, the vice-presidency and the top position of the land, Mikey has not been given proper credit.

Very few people know that he has an AB Interdisicplinary Studies from Ateneo de Manila, a Business Administration diploma from University of California at Berkeley and one year of law studies both at the Ateneo Law School and the University of Santo Tomas.

The moment Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ascended to power, Mikey was typecast as the son of you-know-who. Some downplayed his organizational skills, which he successfully showed in his mother's many campaigns. However, his fellow Pampangueños knew better and elected Mikey by a landslide.

ARROYO. Has acted in 11 movies since 1996.

In the field of show business, when producers suddenly got interested in him as lead actor for several film projects, some observers attributed it to his new status. Though it may be true that producers are known for casting people on the basis of public awareness (beauty queens, advertising models, broadcast personalities, etc.), Mikey is not exactly new on the film scene. He has done 11 movies since 1996. It's true that he has been playing mostly supporting roles but things are opening up for the vice governor.

Regular guy

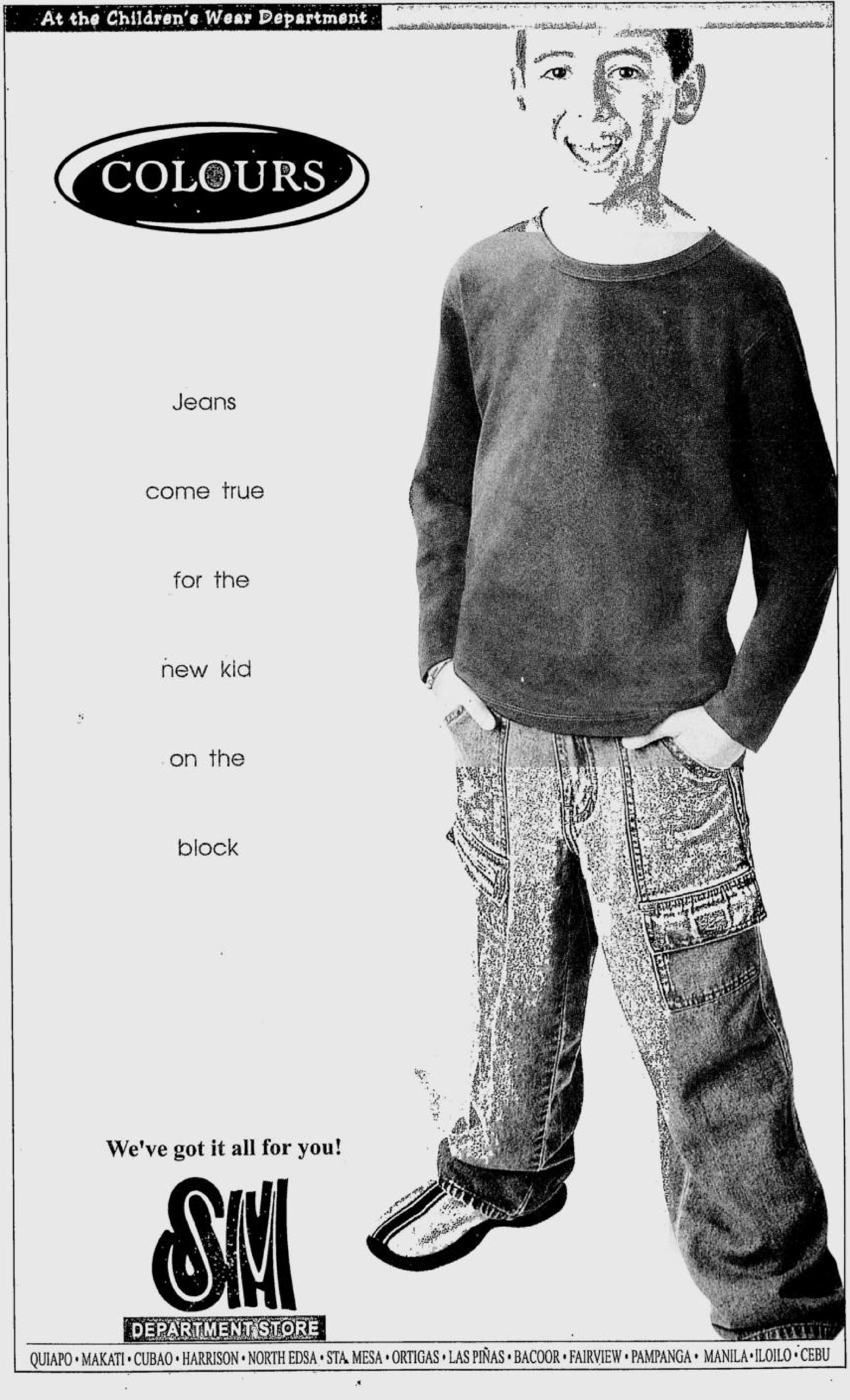
To update himself with the movie industry, he invited several entertainment writers recently for dinner at his penthouse along Katipunan ave. in Quezon City. He impressed us as somebody without airs, a regular guy who just happened to be the son of the president.

Someone asked about the negative reports about his being overbearing in his new position and throwing his weight around. He could only sigh as he explained that these reports were untrue and were probably the work of his political enemies.

Mikey is no hypocrite when it comes to producers' offers. He realizes that the "GMA connection" has a lot to do with it but wants to prove to everyone that there's more to him than just being the son of the president.

In his latest movie, "Mahal Kita Kahit Sino Ka Pa" where he co-stars with Judy Ann Santos, Mikey does fairly well. There definitely is room for improvement if he wants to make it as a leading man.

It is his next projects that will determine whether he is destined to be in show biz for the long haul. After all, it's still the movie-going public that will decide whether Mikey is worth paying P50 or more to watch on the screen.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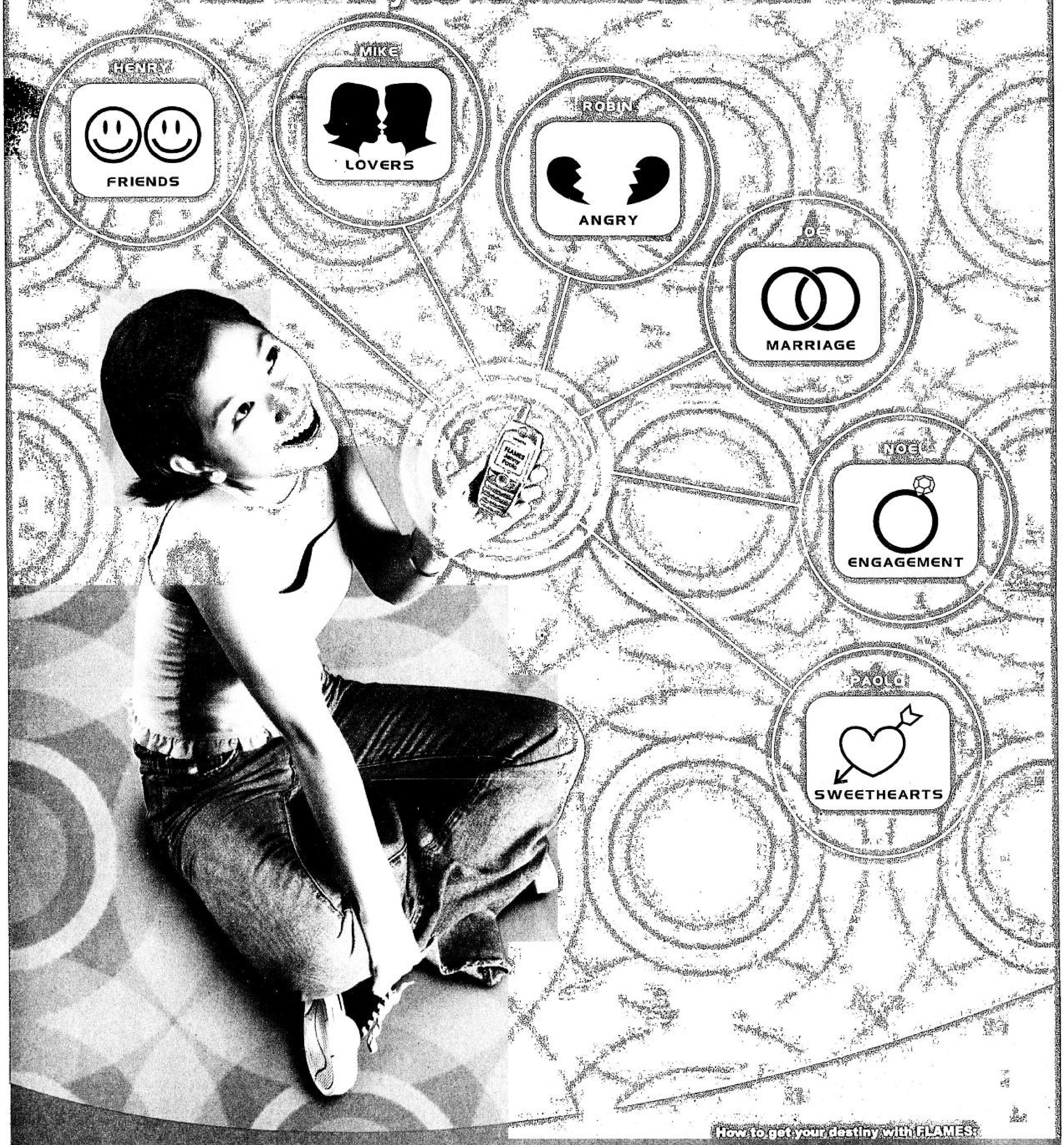
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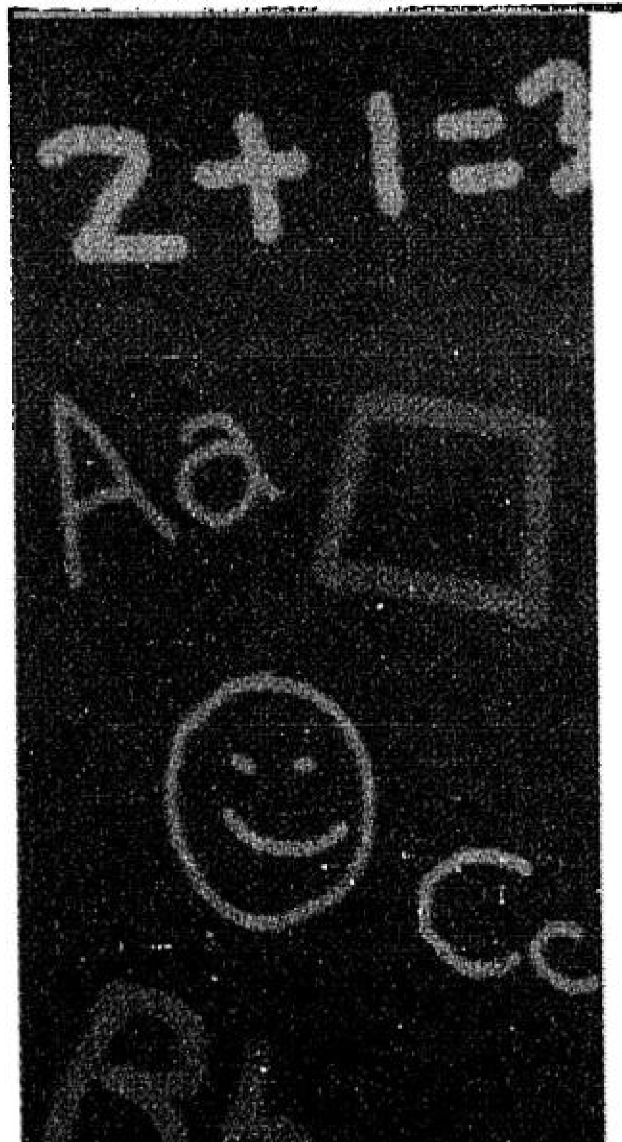


The FUN School

Esteban Abada Elementary School in Quezon City gets an A!

KIDS laughed and cheered from the street. The school band and cheer-dancers went into full rah-rah-rah mode. From the top floors, students ran out of their classrooms waving flags and those with cameras good-naturedly jostled each other for a few wacky poses.

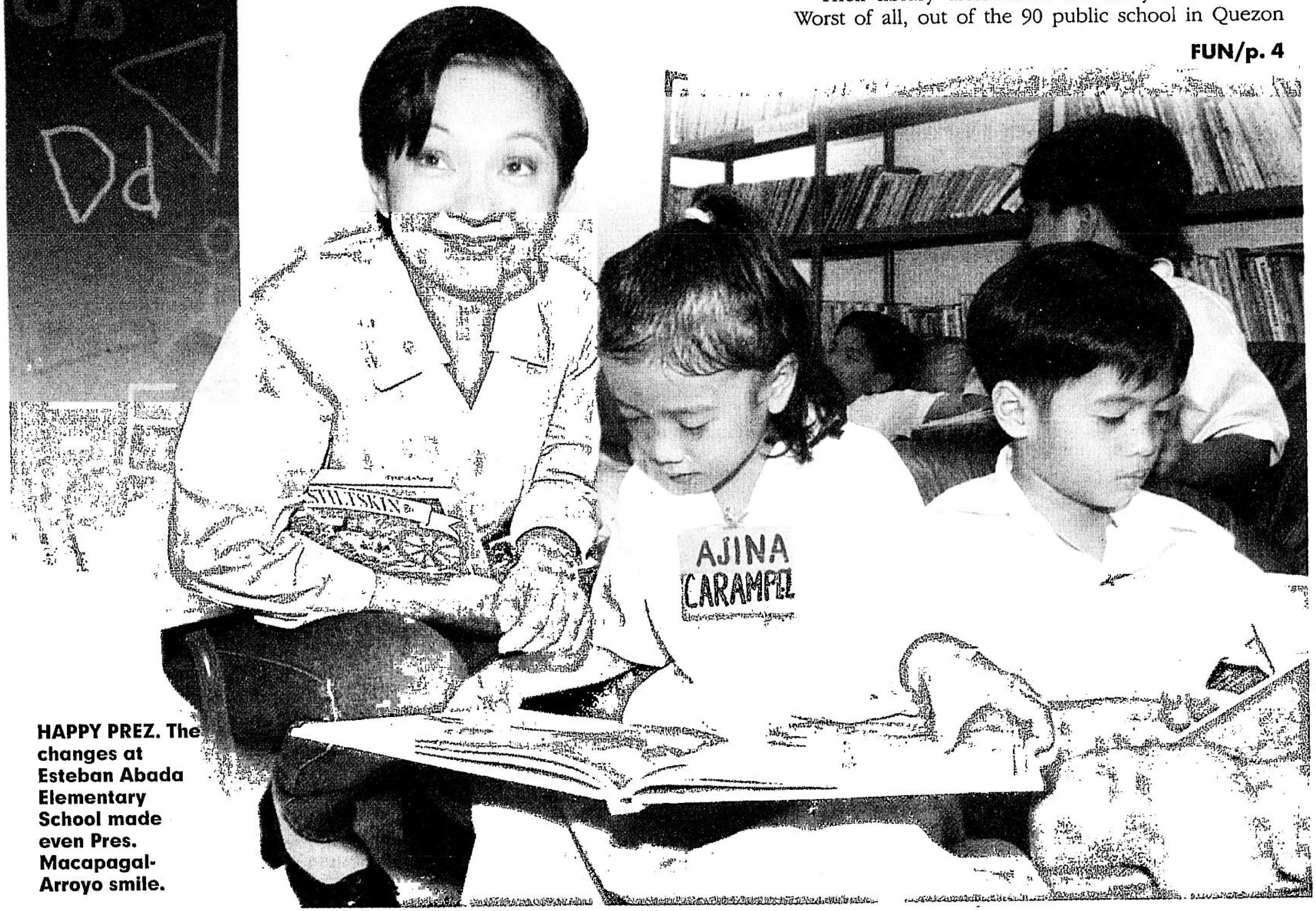
Eleven-year-old Mariel Abaya giddily informed us, "Our school is now a Model-of-Excellence-School!!!"

School in SOS

Not too long ago, the students of Esteban Abada Elementary School in Project 7, Quezon City didn't feel like celebrating at all. Their school had leaky ceilings and rusty gutters that threatened to crumble over people's heads.

Their library didn't have too many books either. Worst of all, out of the 90 public school in Quezon

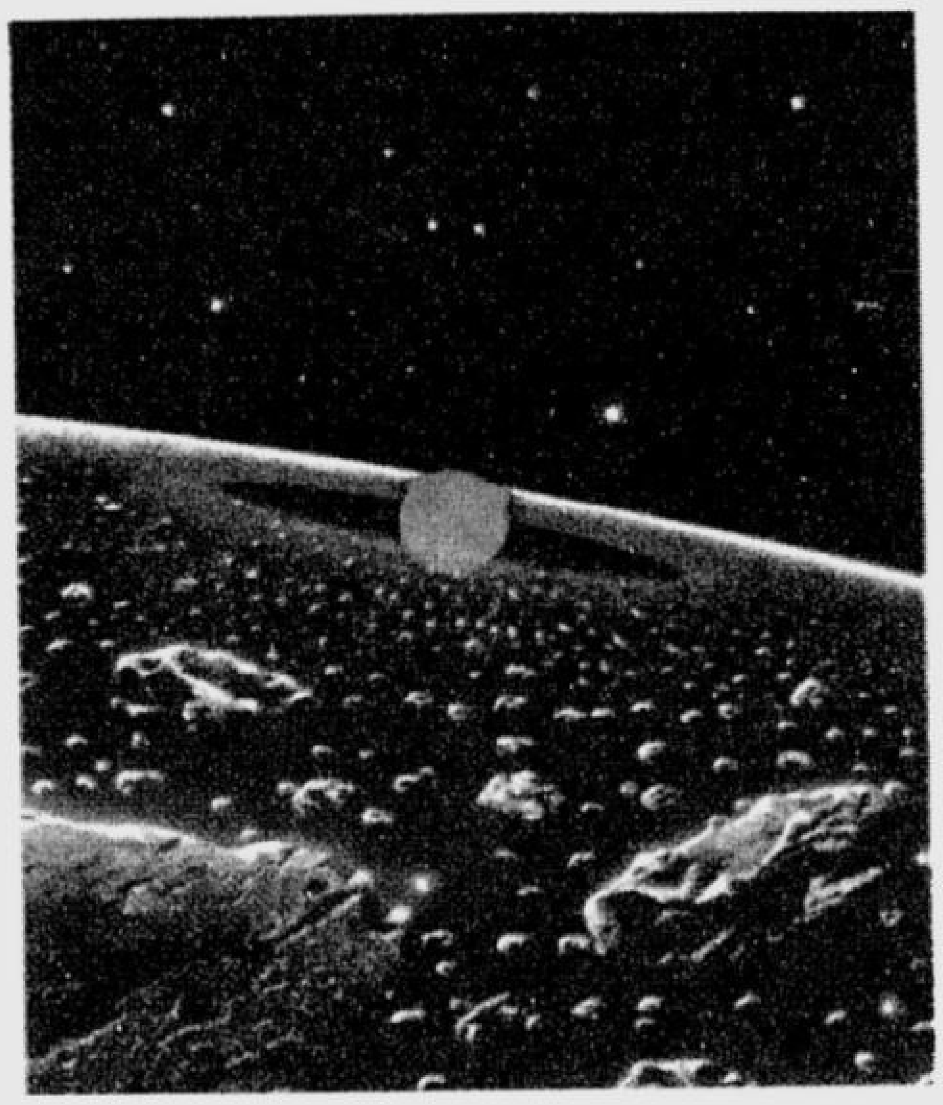
FUN/p. 4



HAPPY PREZ. The changes at Esteban Abada Elementary School made even Pres. Macapagal-Arroyo smile.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

WORLD SCOPE



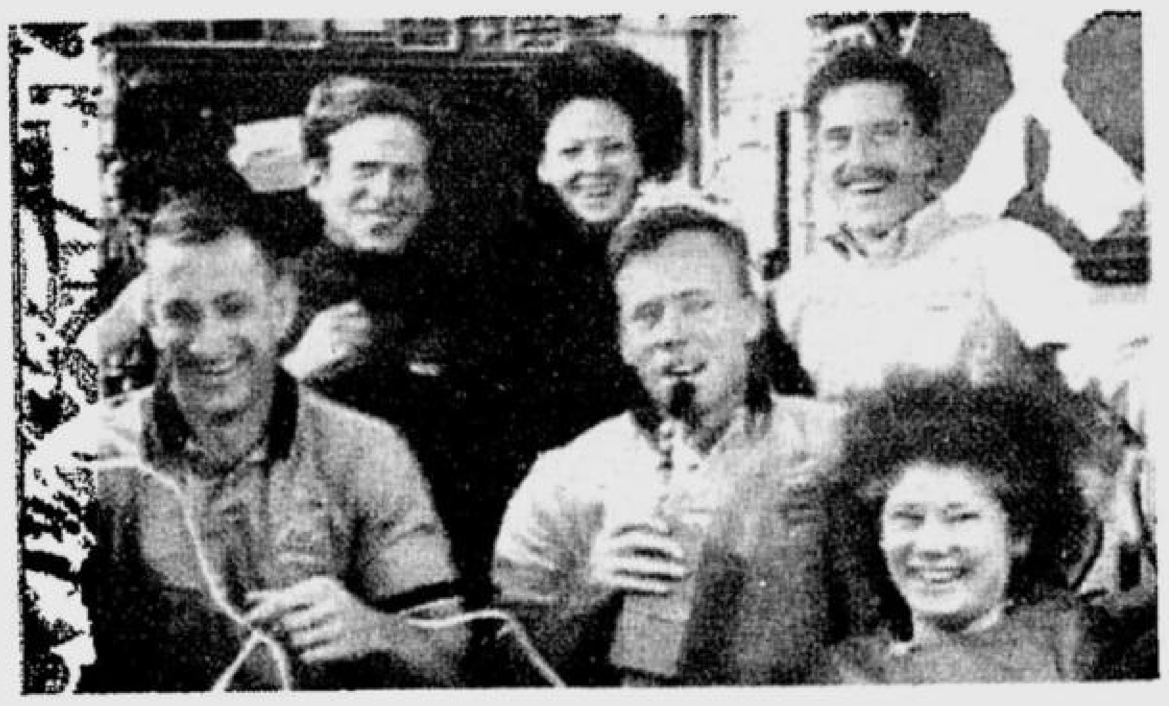
OUTER SPACE

Life Out There?

THIS image, released by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, shows an aging star with a bigger mass than the Sun. Astronomers found a cloud of water vapor around the distant dying star, suggesting the possibility of life-supporting planets. ***AP***

OUTER SPACE

Whew! Now that that's done...



MEET the space shuttle Atlantis crew members: from left to right, Charles Hobaugh, Michael Gernhardt, Janet Kavandi, Steven Lindsey and James Reilly, with international space station crew member Susan Helms, bottom right. The astronauts enjoy a discussion with Earth during an interview from inside the space station. Atlantis docked with the space station on July 13 and installed a new air lock, Quest. ***AP Photo/NASA TV***

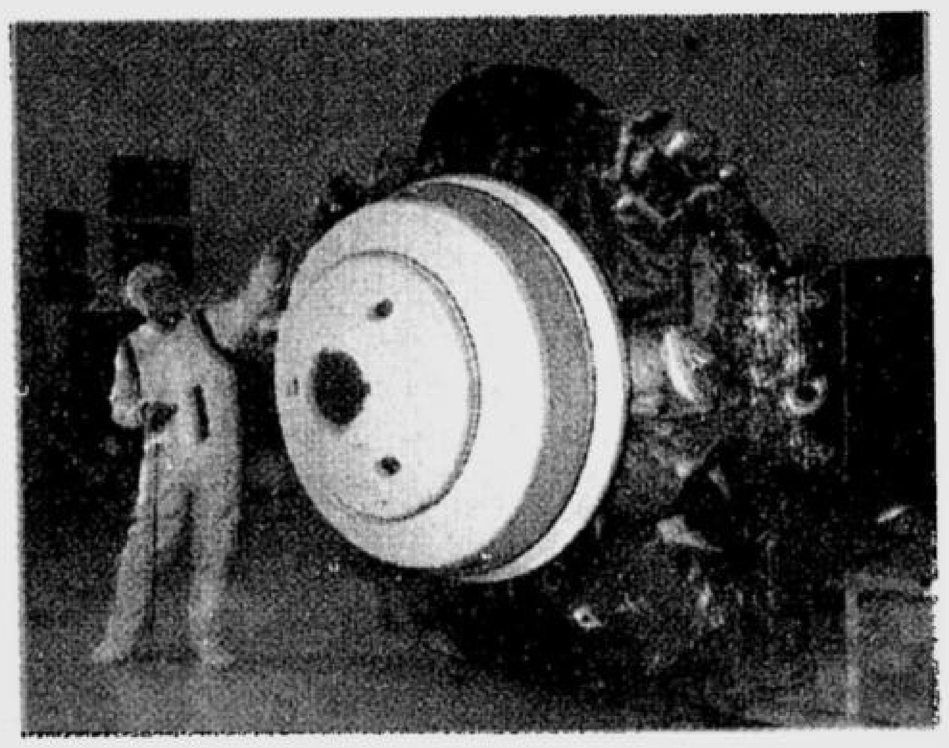
Fukuoka, Japan
College Station, USA
Cape Canaveral, USA

Good work, Mom!

AUSTRALIA'S Hayley Lewis, left, is congratulated by her three-year-old son Jacob and husband Greg after finishing third place at the women's five-kilometer open water final in the 9th FINA World Swimming Championships. Lewis captured the bronze in 1 hour and 54 seconds. Seen at far left is Russia's Olga Gousseva, who finished eighth. ***AP***

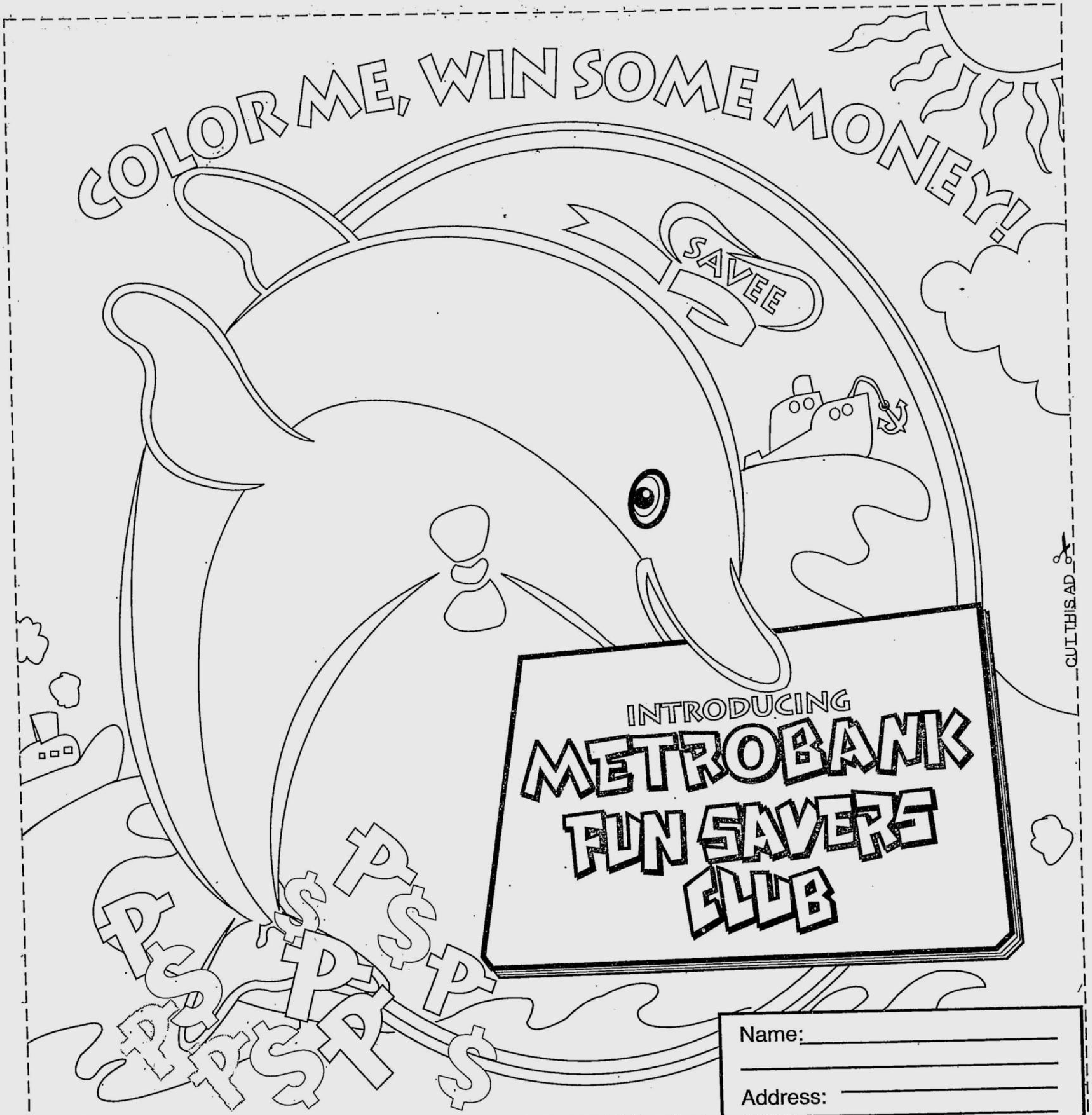
Animal Gene Bank

CHARLES R. Long, general manager of Genetic Savings & Clone, Inc., checks the contents of the liquid nitrogen storage tank where animal cells are kept at -196 degrees Celsius in College Station, Texas. The lab was founded in February 2000 as a gene bank for culture and storage of animal cells in preparation for future cloning. Now a fully functional cloning facility, the lab currently does research on cloning a variety of animals, including dogs, pigs, cattle, goats, sheep and mice. ***AP***



The Sun Catcher

THOUGH it looks like a parade float, the Genesis spacecraft will depart on an unprecedented journey to gather and bring back bits of the sun. In the photo, Project manager Chet Sasaki says NASA hopes the specks of solar wind, equivalent to perhaps 10 grains of salt, will help explain what it was like when the planets in the solar system were forming. ***AP***



Hey kids! If you're between 7-10 years old, you could be one of ten lucky winners of a ₱2,000.00 initial deposit and membership in the Metrobank Fun Savers Club! If you are already a member and you win, your ₱2,000.00-cash prize will be deposited to your Metrobank Fun Savers Club account. It's so easy to join! Just color Savee the dolphin blue, his tummy white and color the rest of the ad any way you want, then send your entries to: "Color Me" Contest, PRMD, 11th floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Send as many entries as you want on or before August 17, 2001! So what are you waiting for? Get your crayons, craypas and colored pencils and start coloring this ad now!

NOTE: *Only original ads are considered as valid entries. Photocopies will be disqualified.

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FUN (From page 1)

HEY,s why didn't anyone give the President a comfy bean bag, too?

City, they did badly in the National Elementary Achievement Test.

Learning=Fun

But in July this year, the school's teachers discovered a new way of teaching lessons to their students. In a training program by Books for the Barrios USA and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, they learned that teaching and learning can be made fun.

"These teachers...are expected to get into the 21st century and forget the chalkboard," said Nancy Harrington, president of Books for the Barrios. "No more chalk-talk." She was referring to the way teachers just write things on the blackboard and then drone on for an entire boring hour.

Big, BIG changes

Now, over the summer, the school itself underwent a major makeover. Parents and other volunteers worked to repaint the school and help with repairs. By the time the 2,000 students of Esteban Abada returned in June, they could barely recognize their school.

When the pre-schoolers, first graders and second graders entered their classrooms, they saw colorful tables with six kid-sized chairs each. "To help them learn from each other," explained Nancy.

Toys in school

Where empty walls used to be, there were now shelves of books and toys. Their rooms also had a new computer and for the first time their teachers were using CDs in their lessons.

Their daily lessons also became a little different this year. It now includes half-hour visits each week to the school's new Computer Learning Center. There the kids are encouraged during the lessons to send e-mail to penpals abroad.

They also get to stay in the Toy Library, a room so full of toys, board games and puzzles, they practically spill over into the corridor. Of course, kids are taught to return everything in their proper place afterwards.

A real library for kids

Best of all, their Children's Library is now a dream-come-true.

"They fixed the books and they put books here too," said seven-year-old Fritz Robin Bagtas. Fritz pointed to a wall now lined with bookshelves and remarked, "There weren't any books there before."

From only 2,000 books, the Esteban Abada library now has over 7,000 books and magazines. They've also been taken out of their glass cabinets and placed on low, open and kid-friendly shelves.

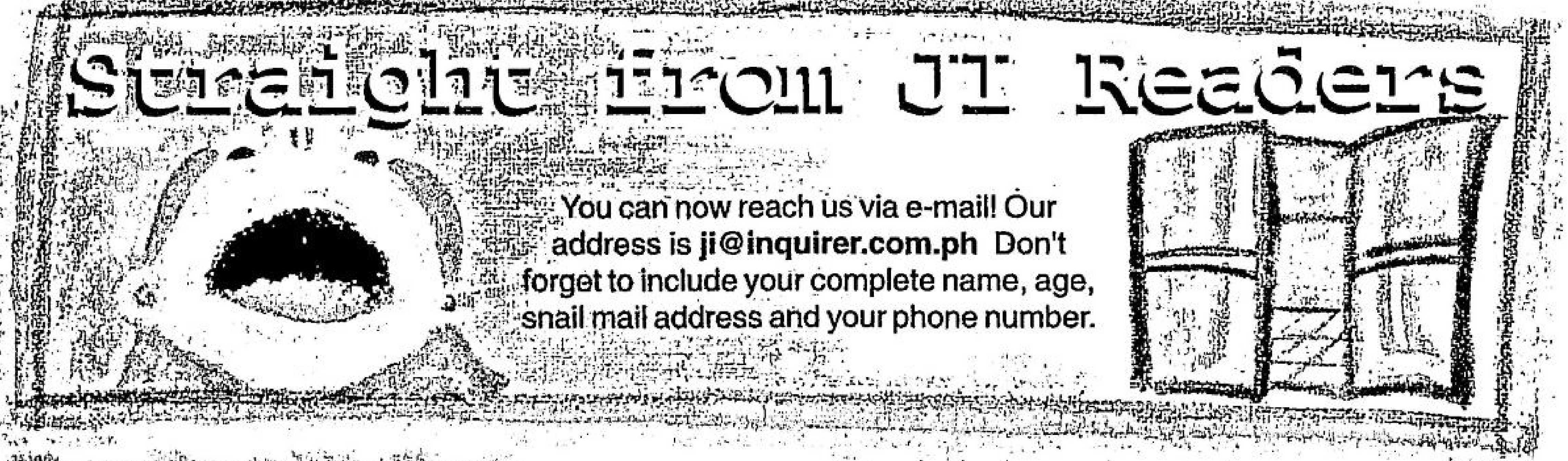
"They also repainted it!" says six-year-old Darren Garcia, "It used to be just brown."

Darren and Fritz were plopped on plump beanbags--an added comfy touch—in the library's new storytelling area.

"It's now up to the parents, it's up to the teachers, it's up to the children to keep this school as nice as it is," says Nancy.

During the ceremony inaugurating Esteban Abada Elementary school as a new Model-of-Excellence school, held on July 11, sixth-grader Katherine Emoy spoke before the guests, which included President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and promised, "We will not let you down." ***Christine C. Rivero***

THANKFUL for their school's new gifts, these students promise to always study hard and do their best.

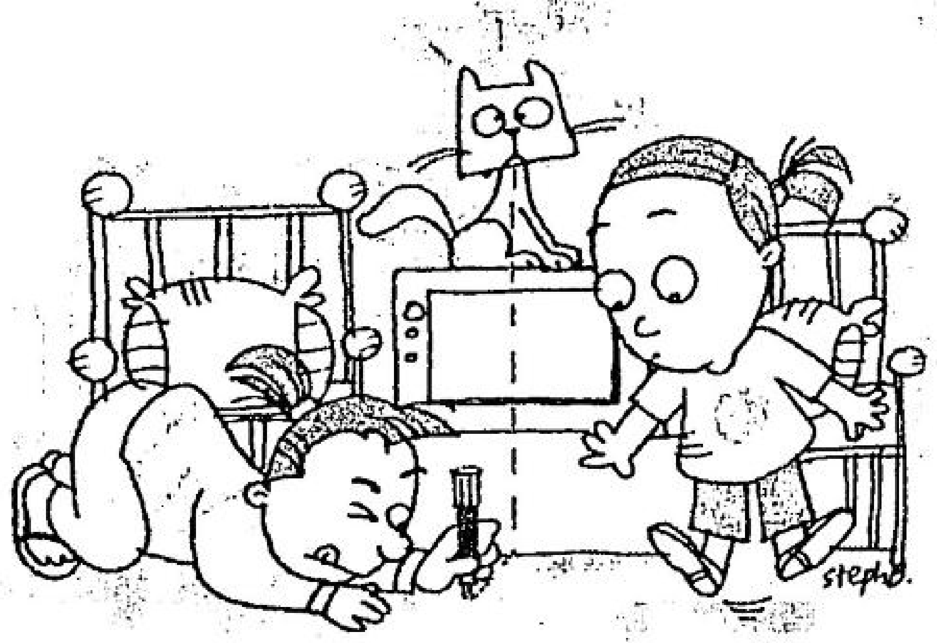


Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number.

Your Turf, My Turf

DEAR JI,
Could you tell me the best way to divide a room? My sister and I share a room but I want my own space. My parents don't want us to use curtains. I can use cardboard but I don't have enough. The T.V. is also on my side. So how can we divide the room so we can both watch?—**JILL CHUA YAP**, 11, Quezon City



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First, I hope you're not thinking of dividing your room just because you had a squabble with your sister. If that's true, it might be a good idea to sort things out first. Second, it's natural to want your own space in a shared room. I mean, you don't want your stuff and your sister's stuff to get all mixed up. But, discuss this with your parents first. That way, they can help you think of creative ways to mark your turf and your sister's. ***—Editor***

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Image Setter

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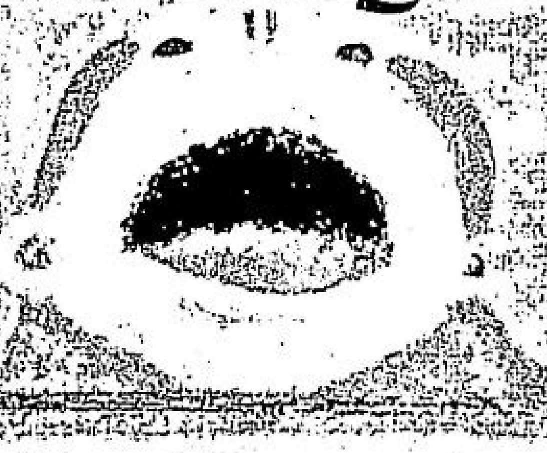

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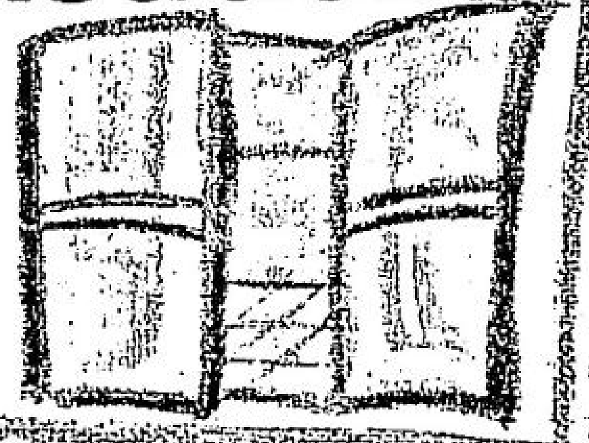

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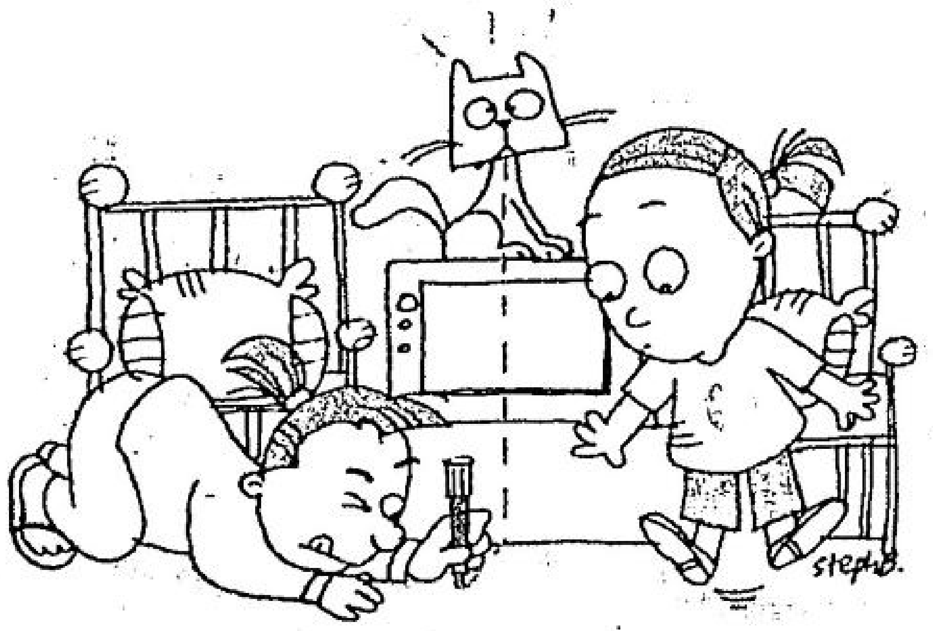

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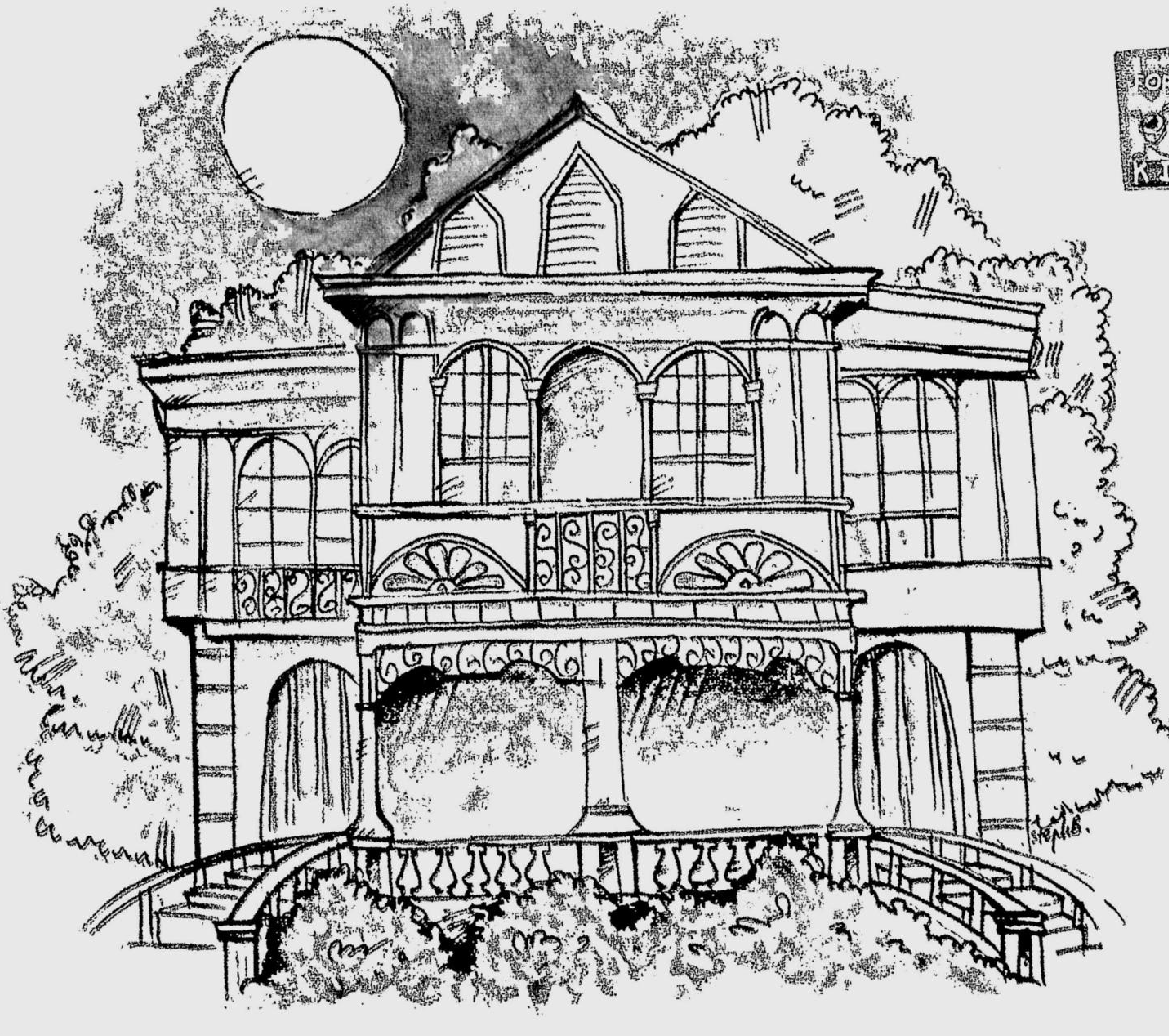
The MIRROR

It was old, it was haunted and someone was trying to get out of it



STORY BY ANNA IG
ILLUSTRATIONS BY S

ROGER didn't r
house in the
very large and
it was built during th
aged to survive Worl

But this summer,
there with his young

Roger was almost
four. He wondered,
things to do in the h
both him and his siste
of one.

One day, he was l
string for his kite wh
old *bodega*. Maybe t
he thought.

When he went in, e
dust. And the air wa
opened the windows

"Okaaaaay, " he sa
ticular. "Suddenly, I f
to the room.

Things th
everything—
trunks, the b
whatever els
in the room t
things out, o
look at the st

But there was on
stood apart from the
mirror. And it looked

Roger felt he'd see
wasn't sure. It did giv
had just decided he'd
the *sari-sari* store in
Janie wandered into t

"Hey Janie, let's g
"It's very dirty in here
if she found out."

The little girl wrigg
er's hand and shrieke
saw herself in the mirro
and jumped up and d

"Looks like you kid
It was *Lolo*, back fro
was cooking lunch.

"It's Janie," Roger
mirror."

"I'll bring it out later
ing the kids out of the
dining room. "I'll clea
put it in the living roo

BUT that afternoon, R
ther thought of bringi
kumpare's fishpond ins
Roger how to attach
hook and where it wa
was a hot day and th
under a tree, just wait

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LESIAS
STEPH BRAVO

:ally like going to his *lolo's*
province. The house was
had many rooms. *Lolo* said
e Spanish era and it man-
l War 2. It was that old.
he would spend a week
r sister, Janie.
0 years old. His sister was
how ever would he find
use that would be fun for
. And he still couldn't think

ooking for some pieces of
en he stumbled upon the
ere's an old kite in there,

verything was covered with
so stale, he immediately
o let some fresh air in.
d aloud to no one in par-
el so lazy," he announced

ere looked interesting. But
-the antique chairs, the
oxes, the old cabinets and
e—were all so crammed
at he would have to take
e by one, to get a good
ff.
piece of furniture that
crammed mess. It was a
as old as the house.
the mirror before but he
him the creeps. And he
rather look for string in
he next *barangay* when
e room.
out now," Roger said.
nd mom wouldn't like it

led free from her broth-
l with delight when she
. She wiggled and danced
wn.
are having fun in there."
n the kitchen where he

id. "She really likes the

hen," he said. Shush-
bodega and into the
it up for her and
."

oger's grandfa-
g them to his
ad. *Lolo* taught
worm to a fishing
s best to cast his line. It
y were all happy to be
ng for fish to bite. They

"The rosary burned in his hand. He let go of it and he was suddenly pulled into the world behind the mirror."

even took a dip in a nearby river after Roger and *Lolo* caught four *tilapia.*

When they got home, the mirror was still in the *bodega* and Janie had forgotten all about it. Lolo cooked the *tilapia* in coconut milk and they all had a hearty meal.

That evening, Roger couldn't sleep. Lolo was already snoring and Janie was fast asleep. Still Roger couldn't figusre out what was bugging him.

Then, he suddenly remembered where he had seen the mirror before.

When he was younger—probably around 6 years old—Roger had a strange and scary dream.

In his dream was a young girl his age. She wore a long, white dress. She was carrying a doll that looked exactly like her.

"Hello, cousin!" she said to him. He followed her to a beautiful house. The little girl knocked on the big, heavy door. An old woman opened it.

"Nana Cela," the girl said "this is my cousin." Roger peeped into the room. The table was laden with a lot of good stuff to eat. There was lechon, fresh fruits, chicken *adobo*, and Roger's favorite dessert, *maja blanca.* There were people eating at the table—a tall, handsome gentleman with a thick moustache in military uniform; a beautiful dark-haired woman dressed in a fine red silk dress; a boy and a girl about 10 years old. There were two empty seats.

"Ah, Lucia, you're late for dinner again!" the beautiful woman said sternly. Then, she smiled at Roger.

"Hello there, join us won't you?" she said to him. Roger nodded vigorously. At the table, the man smiled at him and offered him more food.

After dinner, he followed Lucia to the sala. He felt very shy. The beautiful woman went to the piano and played a sad song.

Then she started to sing a lullaby. He felt very sleepy. The beautiful woman carried him to bed. He did not know why he called her Mama but she didn't get angry. She only smiled and kissed his cheek. In his hand she put a heavy silver rosary.

The bed felt very soft. But then there was a knock at the door. He got up to see who it was but there was no one. When he went out of the bedroom, there were still people in the living room. But they looked different. They moved far too slowly! And their clothes! They looked like the people he saw in black-and-white photographs.

At once Roger started to run. Lucia! Lucia! he called. But he could not find her. The house was full of twists and turns! There was no way out.

Somewhere he could hear the beautiful woman singing to him. "I'd like to return…" he heard her sigh. Then she was right in front of him. She hugged him tightly.

Then Roger saw a large mirror behind her. "Ah!" he yelled. The rosary burned in his hand. He let go of it and he was suddenly pulled into the world behind the mirror.

"AND it's that same mirror," Roger was telling *Lolo* as he was cooking breakfast the next day.

Lolo understood everything.

"You're very lucky," he said. "Do you know why my grandfather bought that mirror?"

Roger shook his head.

"Because my grandmother died in the revolution when Manila was captured," Lolo said. "The mirror belonged to the owner of the house where she was hiding at the time. He somehow believed that the mirror would bring her back to him."

"Really?" said Roger.

"Ghosts are very lonely," he said. "They long to be in the outside world again, but they don't understand that things are different now."

Just then, Janie came out the bedroom yawning. "What's for breakfast," she asked, her eyes still half-closed. "What will we do today? Can we go somewhere? I'm getting bored."

And before Roger could answer, his *Lolo* said, "We're going to church to have a mirror blessed and then we'll take it back home."

Janie, still very sleepy, then said "Oh you mean Lucia's mirror?"

Roger and Lolo suddenly looked at each other. And without a word, got up, took Janie and rushed the mirror to the nearest church.

***Anna**, 19, is a Sociology major at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.*

***Steph** is JI's staff artist and likes to have an air of mystery about her.*

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L'Enfant Trés 'Rific (The Very 'Rific Kid)

Math whiz Drake Pinchart speaks three languages, helps classmates with their homework and enjoys fixing his own room

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**

"*BONJOUR!*" Drake greeted us in front of his house. In French, that means "Good day!"

French was the first language nine-year-old Drake Kevin Pinchart ever learned, his father being a Belgian national. Now, a third-grader at the French School in Eurocampus, Parañaque, Drake is learning to speak English and even a little Filipino too.

"I like playing computer, basketball...I ride my bike outside and my scooter," says Drake and we understand his English just fine, "I also like to play with my brother hide-and-seek and fighting!"

Eh? He likes to fight with his little brother? "No," he says, laughing, "(we just play) like wrestlers!"

Happy helper

Always ready with a joke or a funny story, Drake smiles and laughs easily. That's one reason why friends often approach him for help with their lessons, especially in math. Although, he says, "Sometimes they ask me, 'How can you know this answer?' and I do not tell them."

He explains, "They must learn to find the answer!"

Instead, Drake says he helps them understand the problem better. "You have to read very well the question," he points out.

The best way to study math, according to Drake, is to choose the right problems to solve first. "The difficult ones I do last," he says, "I do the easiest first."

At home, Drake can be counted on to help with some chores too, including making his own bed. "If it's not fixed yet, I fix it," he says, "because it is my bedroom."

After playing with his little brother Tyler, Drake also keeps the toys himself. "When my toys are scattered by my brother, I put them back," he says, explaining simply that "I want to do it by myself."

Future millionaire?

When we ask him what he wants to be when he grows up, Drake replies with a small grin, "I just want to be 10 years old or 12 years old then I want to have a Tamiya and a big race track, a really big one!"

But, um, we ask again, what about when he's really grown up? Drake answers with a bigger smile, "When I'm 18 years old, I want to join Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

Oh-la-la, we say, if he wins, what will he do with all that money? "I want a gift for my mom and dad," he begins, "then I want to go out to the store and buy some chips."

Er, all that money and all he wants to do is buy chips??? With an even bigger smile Drake tells us, "No, sometimes I can also buy some bubblegum."

Ah well, Drake really is quite the joker. Something tells us, though, that whatever Drake decides to do in the future, he'll be really good at it—or, as they'd say in French, *trés bien*.

VOILA. Drake the funny guy in a very neat room. Hey, boys, how about following his example?

PHOTO BY BHETOY JOHNSON

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at

____
____
____

and studies at

____

Her/his contact number is:

____

Sender's Name:

____

Sender's Age & School:

________, ____________________

Sender's Address:

____
____

Sender's Contact No.

____

PHOTO BY EDWIN BACASMAS

The Merry Pottery Lady

Tita Lanelle Abueva Fernando describes herself as "someone who plays with clay"

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

"I ALWAYS wanted to do something with my hands," says Tita Lanelle, "Maybe because I lived in a place where I could see sculptures being made."

Tita Lanelle, whose full name is Lanelle Abueva Ferando, grew up beside the house of her uncle, the National Artist for Sculpture, Napoleon Abueva.

"He's the brother of my dad," she says, "I would see him and his workers work with wood, cement, marble, metals, clay." It fascinated her, she told us, how these materials could later have spectacular forms and shapes.

Later in college, Tita Lanelle says she tried to take up advertising, "but I really could not draw." That's when she decided to do what she's always wanted to do—make handicrafts. Specifically, really nifty ones made of clay.

"I studied in Japan for three years to make ceramics then one more year in the States," says Tita Lanelle, but her early creations, she admits, weren't exactly perfect.

Smiling, she explains, "It's the funniest thing when you have that piece of clay on top of the (pottery) wheel and it starts getting wobbly then, it FLIES across the room!"

By now, though, Tita Lanelle has the technique down perfectly. "No more flying clay," she says with a grin.

At her studio in Antipolo, she makes ceramics for hotels and other clients while at the same time running a small café called The Crescent Moon Café. Here in Manila, Tita Lanelle teaches students of all ages how to make and paint their own ceramics in a shop called Pottery Exchange.

To make the colors all shiny, Tita Lanelle says the ceramics have to be "cooked" in a kiln for 12-14 hours. "It's always a surprise when you open the kiln," she says, "sometimes you get a different shape and color."

Being able to always experiment is one of the most fun things about what she does, says Tita Lanelle. "Many times I sit at the wheel and I really don't know what shape I want to make," she says, "Sometimes I say want to form a bowl or a vase, but only when I know that I have to stop (spinning the wheel), that's when the design comes out."

Her two daughters seem to think what Tita Lanelle does is cool too because, as Tita Lanelle points out, "They like playing with clay too."

Visit Tita Lanelle at Pottery Exchange, Garden Level, Bonaventure Building, Ortigas Ave., San Juan MM.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

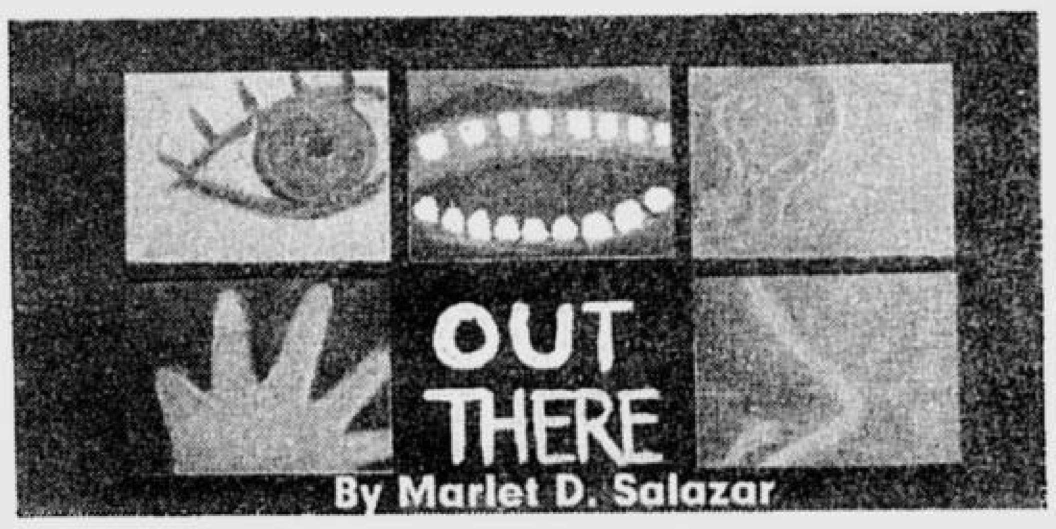
I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ____________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)______________________;
2)______________________;
3)______________________;
4)______________________;
and
5)______________________.

My nominee lives at__________ ______________________.
Give him/her a call at________ ________________ or send him/her an e-mail at________________.
By the way, I'm______________ ______________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is ______________________.
You may call me at ______________________.

Movies

CATS & DOGS. It's the age-old battle between *Canis familiaris* and *Felis Silvestris*, but with gadgets that would put 007 to shame. Watch this funny but amazing movie about the war between cats and dogs. Quick! Watch "Cats & Dogs" when it opens in Metro Manila on Aug. 1.

THE EMPEROR'S GROOVIN'. You loved it on the big screen. Now you can groove with "The Emperor's New Groove" over and over again with the newly-released video version. It is a story of an arrogant and egocentric emperor named Kuzco, who is turned into a talking llama by his devious advisor, Yzma. The former emperor then winds up with Pacha, a simple peasant evicted from his land by Kuzco's plans for a summer home. Through this humbling experience, Kuzco learns the value of friendship and realizes the goodness in each person. Available on VHS and VCD formats, and soon on DVD, at video stores, SM Department Stores and Tower Records outlets.



Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contests

BE PART OF BATCH RTO. The search is on for the next Batch RTO! Do you value knowledge, true friendship, health and doing one's best? You could be one of the 10 young people chosen to promote these values. Batch RTO (Royal Tru-Orange) Search 2001 is open to all Filipinos from ages 12 to 16. Candidates should have varied interests, should enjoy discovering new things and should have a zest for life. Winners will experience the Batch RTO Youth Camp, a nine-day eco-cultural tour from Baguio to Davao. They will be given pocket money worth P25,000. Whew! That's a lot! They will also be awarded a computer course at STI and will each receive a brand new computer. Wowa-wee! Get your application forms from Coca Cola plants, selected sales offices, Sky Cable offices and selected schools throughout the country. Just remember kids, the deadline is on Aug. 4.

Cable Picks

NOAH'S FLOOD. The oxygen-deprived waters of the Black Sea hold many mysteries. National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Robert Ballard leads his ninth expedition to look for proof that people were living here at the time of an ancient flood—which, according to a controversial theory, may have inspired stories of Noah's Flood. Catch the "Quest for Noah's Flood" on Sunday, July 29, 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

DIVE WITH THE WHALES. There is a magical place off the western coast of Australia, where humpbacks come to mate, give birth and teach their young how to survive. Curt and Mich Jenner, the couple who discovered this secret location, bring footages of the playful behavior of these creatures. Off the coast of North America, cinematographer Mitsuaki Iwago maneuvers a specially rigged camera deep into the Pacific to capture the surprising behavior of humpback whales. In the cold Arctic waters, watch Bowheads as they trawl up huge quantities of tiny shrimp-like creatures. Check all these magnificent whales in a three-hour special of "whale-watching" on July 28, 7 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

Check This Out

LISTEN TO COOL SOUNDS. Kids and parents can enjoy inspirational songs from seminarians as they honor the forthcoming quadricentennial (that's 400 years!) anniversary of the Colegio de San Jose, which was established in August 25, 1601. "Tinig San Jose 2: Sa Habang Panahon" is a gesture of gratitude to all who have been a part of this institution and to God, who continues to seek us for all time.

On the Web

MUSEO GOES ONLINE. Museo Pambata joins the World Wide Web with its new website, www.museopambata.org, which is hosted by Philonline. You can explore the theme rooms to see what's cool when you go to Museo Pambata, check out how to be a member and its birthday party packages. The site also includes Tuklas Likha, Museo Pambata's quarterly newsletter.

LESSONS.PH. There's a new website that can help you with your lessons in school. lessons.ph is the first and only educational website in the country created for Filipino grade school students. Kids can answer the questions online and immediately get feedback if their answers are right. The exercises are so helpful for reviews or just before long quizzes and exams. Log on now to www.lessons.ph.

¿ThinkathoN?
By Bong Barrameda

Fruits... Scientifically Speaking

AN APPLE, by any other monicker, would taste as sweet, right...but wouldn't it be impressive if you can utter its scientific name, too? In each number, try matching the familiar with the unfamiliar. Some of the Latin terms could offer clues to the fruit's identity, but the rest might just as well be Greek. Good luck!

____1. **Apple**
____2. **Orange**
____3. **Mango**
____4. **Banana**
____5. **Grape**
____6. **Guava**
____7. **Avocado**
____8. **Melon**
____9. **Kalamansi**
____10. **Balimbing**
____11. **Lanzones**
____12. **Strawberry**
____13. **Pineapple**
____14. **Cherry**
____15. **Coconut**

A. *Citrus sinensis*
B. *Cucumis melo*
C. *Fragaria virginaria*
D. *Musa paradisiaca*
E. *Averrhoa carambola*
F. *Psidium guajava*
G. *Frunus avium*
H. *Mangifera indica*
I. *Cocos nucifera*
J. *Vitis vinifera*
K. *Ananas comosus*
L. *Citrus madurensis*
M. *Lansium domesticum*
N. *Persea americana*
O. *Malus domestica*

Answers :

1.O
2.A
3.H
4.D
5.J
6. F
7. N
8. B
9. L
10.E
11.M
12.C
13.K
14.G
15.

Ratings :

superbrain !
18 - 20

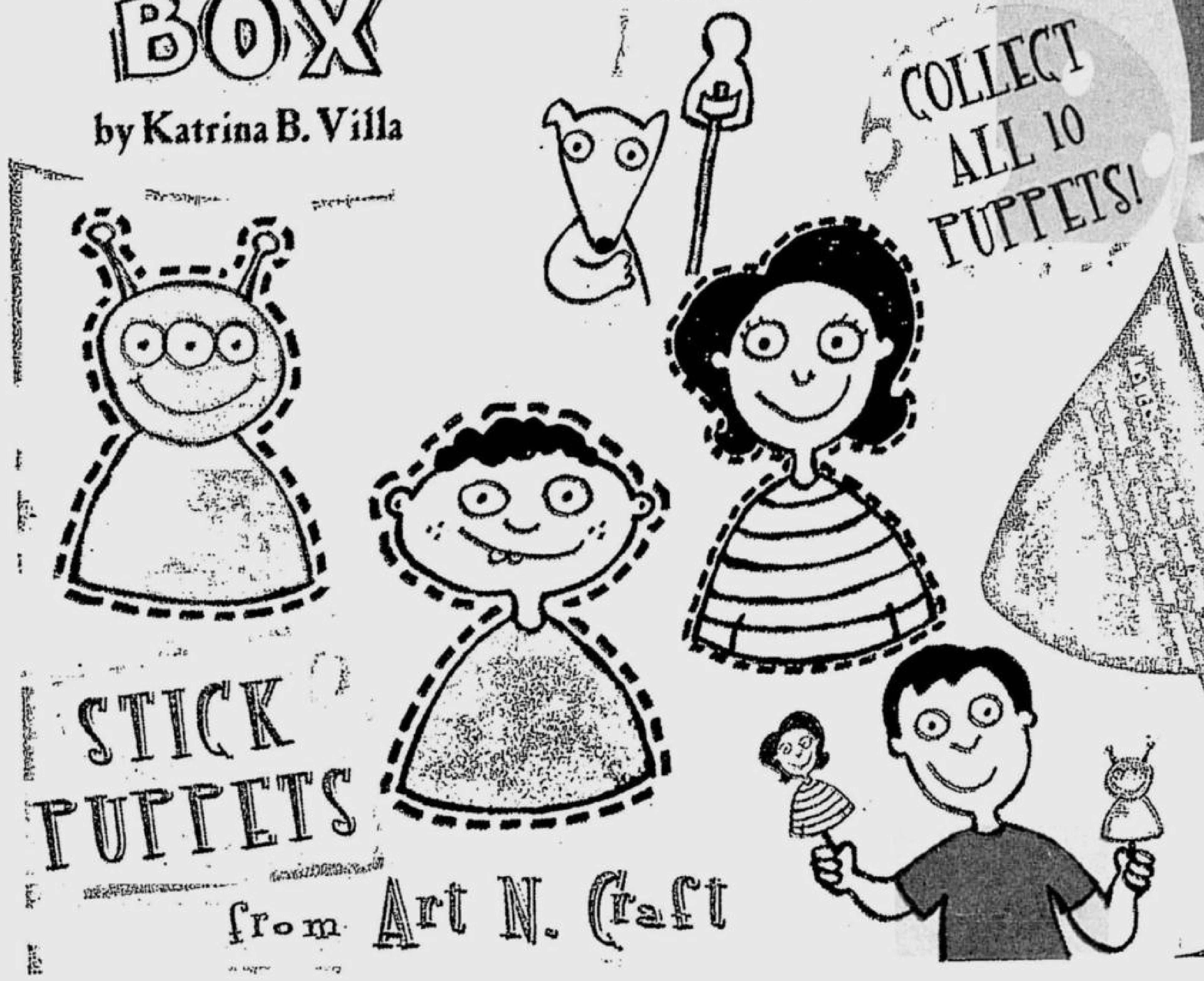
excellent !
14 - 17

good !
8 - 13

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Have hours of puppet fun! Simply cut along the dotted lines and paste the puppet onto a piece of cardboard. Then, attach it to an unsharpened stick or pencil with a strip of tape across the back.

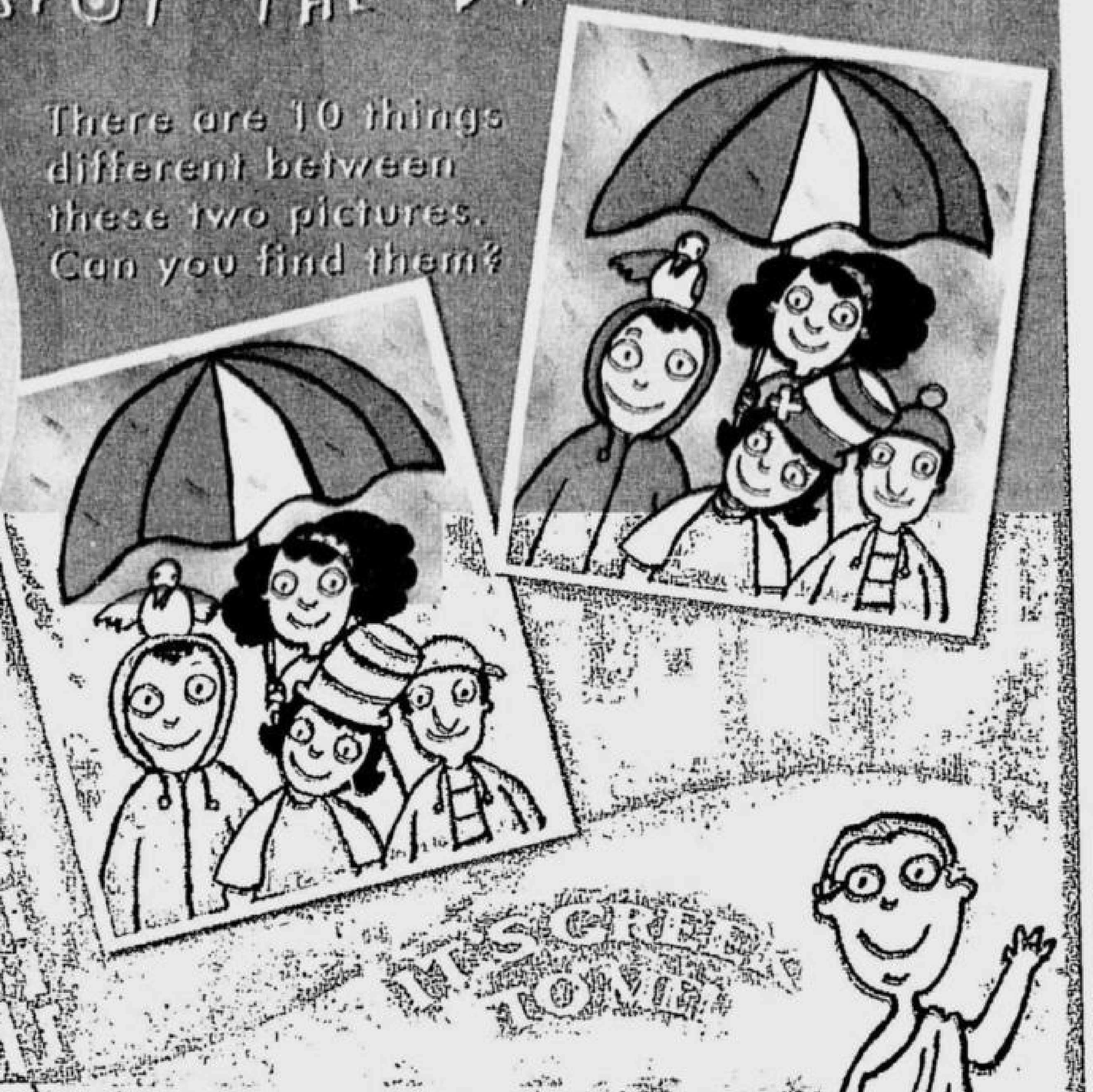

COLLECT ALL 10 PUPPETS!

STICK PUPPETS

from Art N. Craft

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

There are 10 things different between these two pictures. Can you find them?



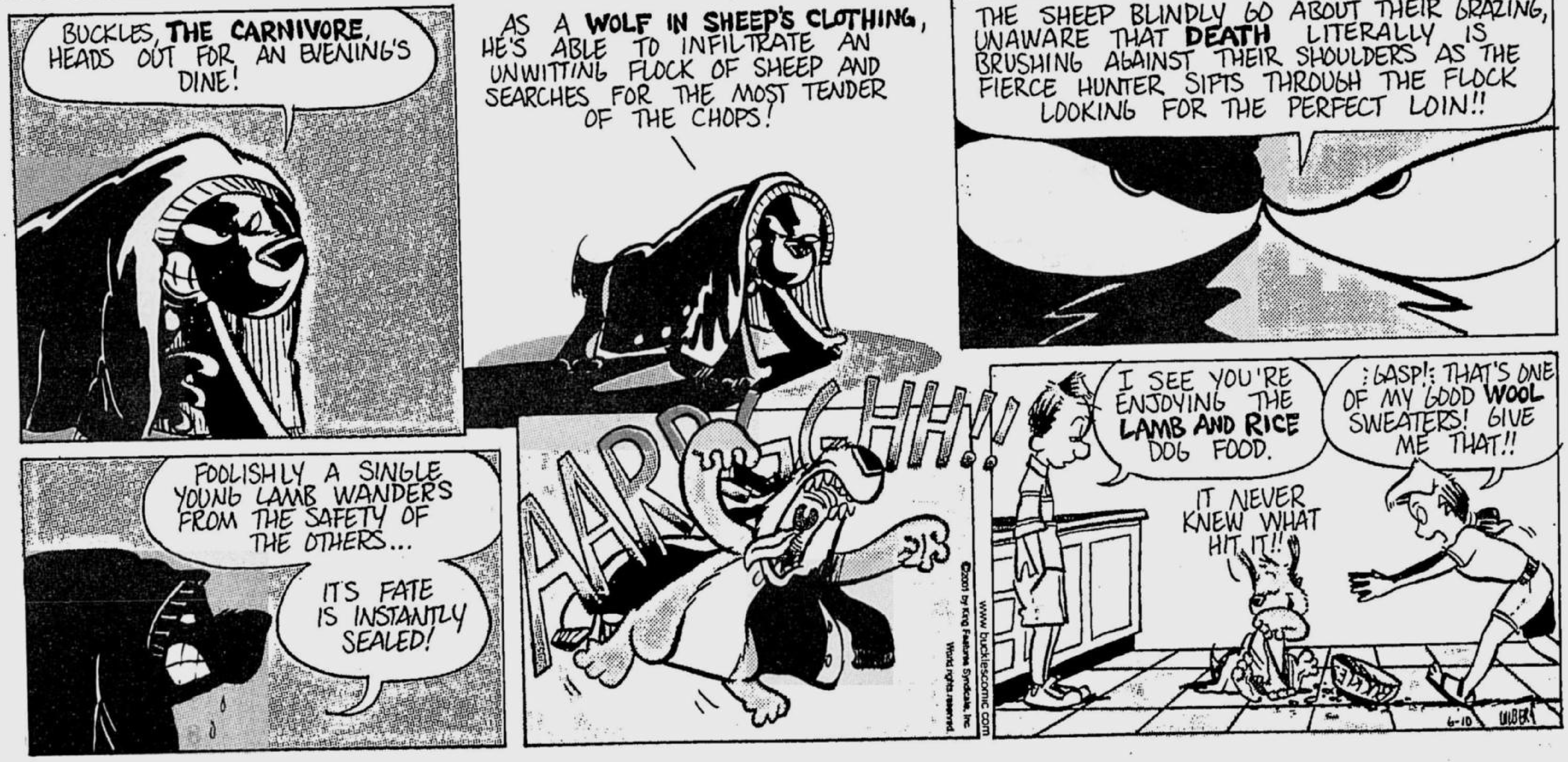
IT'S GREEK TO ME!

Which began in ancient Greece?

☐ music
☐ theatre
☐ dance

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


BUCKLES, THE CARNIVORE, HEADS OUT FOR AN EVENING'S DINE!
AS A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, HE'S ABLE TO INFILTRATE AN UNWITTING FLOCK OF SHEEP AND SEARCHES FOR THE MOST TENDER OF THE CHOPS!
THE SHEEP BLINDLY GO ABOUT THEIR GRAZING, UNAWARE THAT DEATH LITERALLY IS BRUSHING AGAINST THEIR SHOULDERS AS THE FIERCE HUNTER SIFTS THROUGH THE FLOCK LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT LOIN!!
FOOLISHLY A SINGLE YOUNG LAMB WANDERS FROM THE SAFETY OF THE OTHERS...
IT'S FATE IS INSTANTLY SEALED!
AARRGGHHH!!
I SEE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE LAMB AND RICE DOG FOOD.
:GASP!: THAT'S ONE OF MY GOOD WOOL SWEATERS! GIVE ME THAT!!
IT NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT IT!!
BUCKLE
6-10 GILBERT

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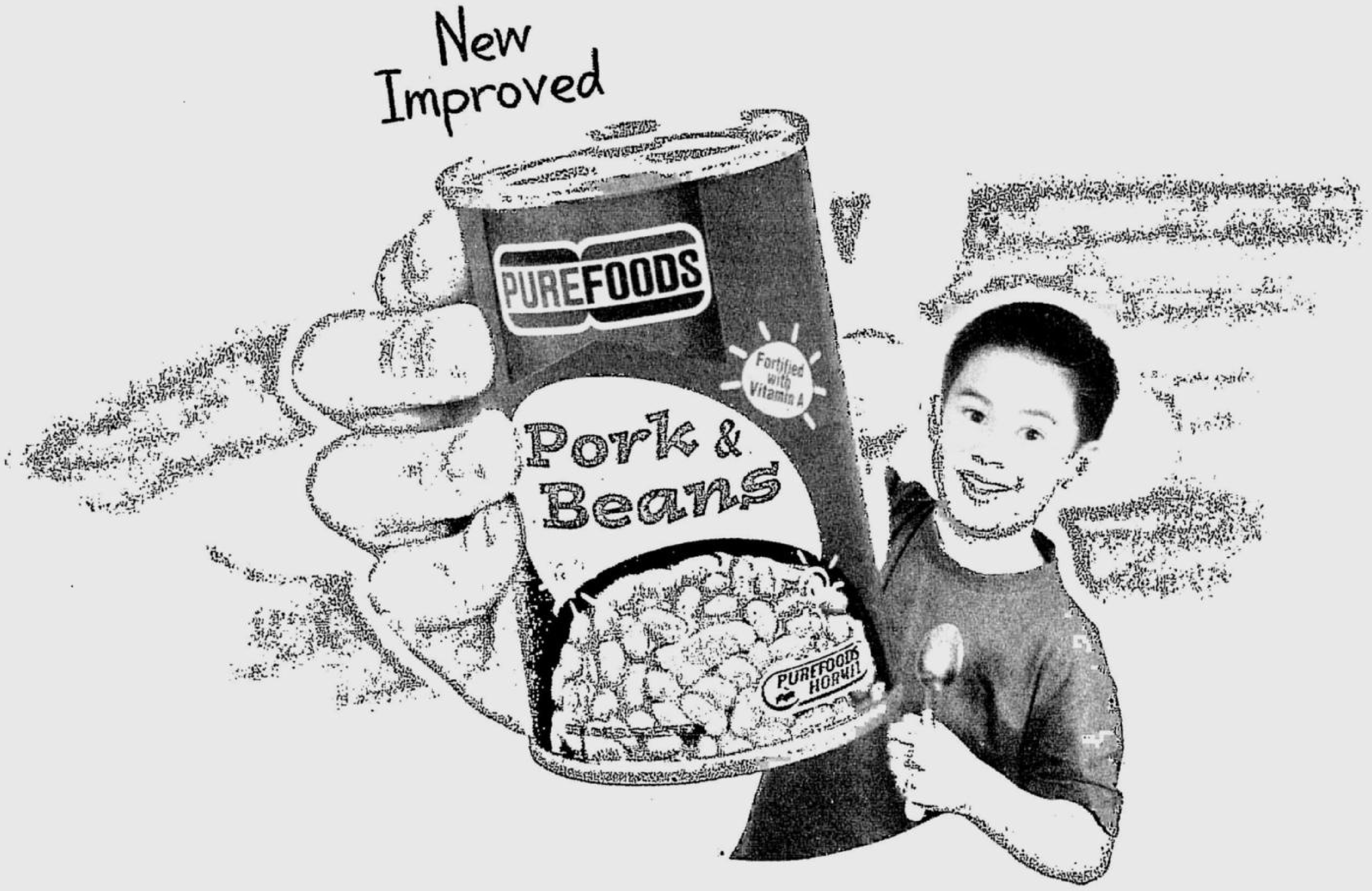
New Improved
PUREFOODS
Fortified with Vitamin A
Pork & Beans
PUREFOODS HORMEL

ANG BAGONG SWEET-SARAP!

Hey kiddo, now enjoy tender plump beans na oh-so-filling
In sweet thick sauce sila'y a-swimming.
Talagang sweet-sarap, a taste na panalo
Kaya I am sure magugustuhan natin ito.
Fortified with Vitamin A, pwede kahit anong oras pa
New improved Purefoods Pork & Beans,
A-Ok kasama sa sarap at saya. ☺ ☺

PUREFOODS HORMEL
The Purefoods-Hormel Company